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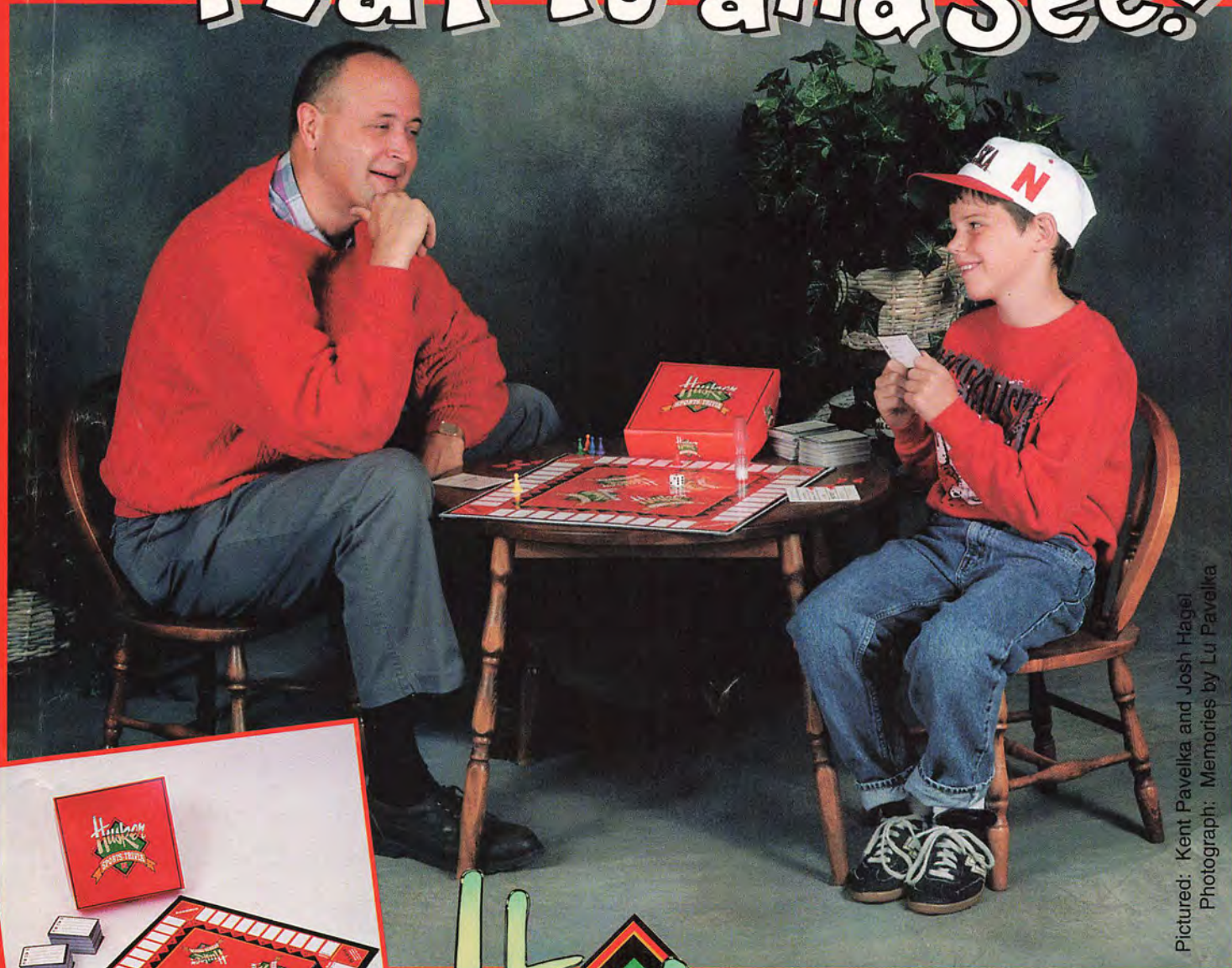
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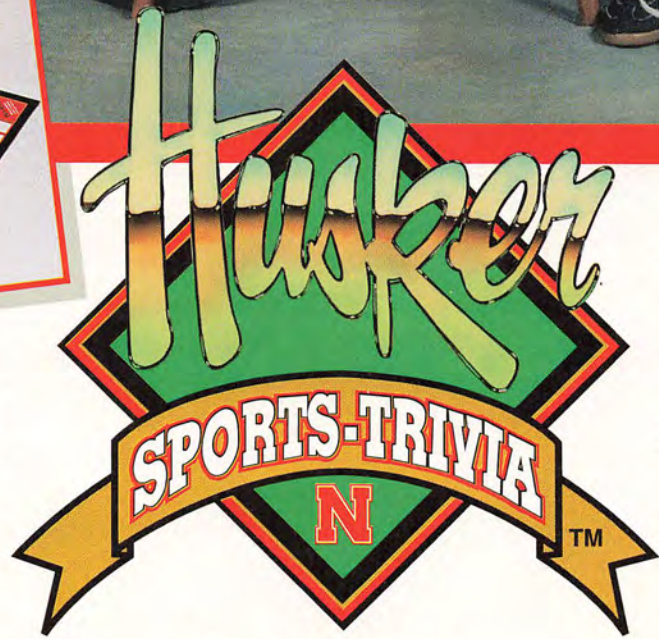
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- R** ¹³⁷⁷ Q. What non-bowl game did the Husker football team play in front of the largest crowd?
- C** ¹⁸ Q. When was Danny Nee's first year as the NU basketball coach?

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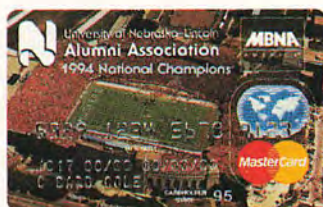
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FEATURES

Raw Power 12

There's more to the Peter brothers, Christian and Jason, than just blood and the ink on their arms.

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He compiled impressive statistics for Nebraska's national champions of the early 1970s, but Jeff Kinney took his game to another level against rival OU.

By Mike Babcock

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Christy Johnson has finally seen her career come 180 degrees from transfer thoughts to All-American dreams.

By Steve Sipple



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Why don't people get off the Nebraska-bashing wagon? It gets a little old. I guess what they say about everyone trying to knock the team on top down is true.

Nebraska came out and put a spanking on a bad Oklahoma State team, but all we hear the next day is about Lawrence Phillips' "car dealings." What about his 160 yards and three touchdowns? I guess that's not as biting as a supposed scandal. I think people need to start to remember that this is only a game and a non-professional one at that. Kids make mistakes, but don't make them pay for the rest of their lives.

How about we concentrate on football for the next four months and not the crap that everyone is trying to dig up?

Ken Pailin
Dallas, Texas

1: Three ex-Huskers played for the champion of Super Bowl XXIV after the 1989 season. Name the players and the team.

2: When were the Huskers last shut out in Memorial Stadium?

3: When did the Huskers surprise their fans by donning all-red uniforms for a game?

4: Who is the only Nebraska coach to defeat a No. 1 team?

5: What position did Tom Osborne play at Hastings College?

Husker Trivia

Answers to last week's questions (Sept. 16)

1: The Missouri Tigers were a perennial thorn for the Huskers during the 1960s and 1970s. They defeated Devaney's 1962 team 16-7 and Osborne's 1973 squad 13-12. **2:** George "Potsy" Clark was the coach in 1945 with a 4-5 record and again in 1948 with a 2-8 record. **3:** Amazingly, Tommie Frazier had a splendid freshman campaign in 1992 in which he tossed 10 touchdown passes and had only one pass picked off, for a 10-1 ratio. **4:** Warren Powers, one of Devaney's halfbacks, coached Washington State to an upset victory over Nebraska in 1977 and led the Missouri Tigers to a similar win in 1978. **5:** Johnny Rodgers broke Jeff Kinney's pass reception record.

.....
One request we always get is for a Nebraska trivia section to be added to Huskers Illustrated. Well, the wait is over. Starting with this issue, each week we'll provide five questions from Lowell Greunke's trivia book "Husker Trivia." You'll have a week to mull over the answer before we print the answers. If you'd like a copy of "Husker Trivia," send a check for \$13.95 to: Husker Trivia, P.O. Box 44142, Omaha, NE, 68144

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Start wearing your hardhats, Husker fans. The critics are back out after a year's hiatus and they're armed to the teeth. A friend of mine in Dallas, Texas, sent me an article entitled "Quick Quiz" which appeared in *The Dallas Morning News*. To make a long letter short, it tried to get a laugh at Nebraska's expense.

Now before anyone starts to tell me to take my lumps, I want everyone to know that I don't approve of this kind of writing no matter what team is the object of information. I just think it detracts from the game. Well, that's my 29 cents (price of postage).

Pauline Castner
Seattle, Wash.

**"I guess what
they say
about
everyone
trying to
knock the
team on top
down is true."**

I wanted to thank you for your expanded coverage of the women's volleyball team. In the past, *Huskies Illustrated* has published an article here or there, but nothing on a regular basis. I talked to your editor and he said that your magazine strives to promote all of the Nebraska's athletics and that you will continue the volleyball articles. Good call.

Coach Pettit has put together another sensational bunch. I am so excited that I didn't even let the Stanford loss get me down. There's plenty of time to rebound.

Sarah Lexington
Lincoln, Neb.

...

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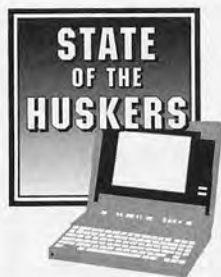
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Number Crunch

In an effort to produce a jersey for each of the Husker players, including walkons, former star's numbers have been unretired

By MIKE BABCOCK

After Tom Novak's senior football season at Nebraska, his No. 60 jersey (he also wore No. 68 during his career) was retired by the "N" club. It was a singular honor, based on Novak's having been a four-time all-conference selection as well as an All-American in 1949. No Cornhusker would ever wear No. 60 again.

Five other football numbers were subsequently retired by the Nebraska athletic department: Johnny Rodgers' No. 20, Mike Rozier's No. 30, Dave Rimington's No. 50, Dean Steinkuhler's No. 71 and Rich Glover's No. 79.

Retirement was automatic if a Cornhusker earned either the Heisman Trophy, as Rodgers and Rozier had, or both the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award, as

Rimington, Steinkuhler and Glover had. The policy was reasonable enough, until the number of such numbers began to mount.

Larry Jacobson had won the Outland Trophy in 1971 and yet his No. 75 wasn't retired. Will Shields wore No. 75 and won the Outland Trophy in 1992. Trev Alberts became Nebraska's first Butkus Award winner, as the nation's best collegiate linebacker, in 1993. And Zach Wiegert earned yet another Outland Trophy last season.

It was becoming apparent after Shields won the Outland that if the Cornhusker athletic department were to continue honoring such worthy accomplishments, it soon would experience a number crisis. So the policy was changed, leaving players'



Bob Berry



Harry Lentz, Jr.

Tom Novak's (right) jersey and number will stay retired, but former players such as Larry Jacobson, Trev Alberts and Will Shields are having only their jersey's enshrined.

True freshman Ahman Green (left) is one of many current players wearing numbers which were formerly retired. Green is wearing Mike Rozier's No. 30 this year.



jerseys retired but pulling all of their numbers out of retirement, with the notable exception of Novak's. The reasoning was, Novak's No. 60 had been retired by the letterman's club rather than the athletic department, the way the other numbers had. Tradition was served in Novak's case.

The numbers change occurred a couple of seasons ago. It was duly reported by the Lincoln and Omaha newspapers as well as in the pages of *Huskers Illustrated*. However, there continues to be confusion, and a little controversy, as the formerly retired numbers are worn by current Cornhuskers.

This year's team includes a No. 20, junior cornerback Michael Booker; a No. 30, freshman I-back Ahman Green; and a No. 71, sophomore offensive guard Mike Van Cleave. No. 50 and No. 79 haven't been assigned yet. But it's only a matter of time, according to Glen Abbott, Nebraska's equipment manager of nearly 20 years.

Nebraska's number problem is, well, one of numbers. Walkons swell the Cornhusker roster, and there are only 99 numbers that can be worn, with many having to be assigned based on position. Interior offensive linemen, for example, must wear numbers from 50 to 79.

Duplicate numbers are commonplace at Nebraska home games. There were a dozen or so duplicate numbers on the Cornhusker sideline during the Arizona State game. But Nebraska has even used duplicate numbers on the road this season.

Junior fullback Brian Schuster and junior weakside linebacker Jamel Williams both wear No. 28, with sophomore tight end Vershan Jackson and sophomore strongside linebacker Ramone Worthy both wearing No. 34.

Green requested No. 34 but was assigned Rozier's No. 30, which

Brian Knuckles, a junior college transfer, would have worn if he had remained at Nebraska. Abbott tries to accommodate requests for numbers, but in Green's case, "we already had two guys in No. 34," Abbott said.

Again, Alberts wore No. 34 but the policy change had occurred by the time he completed his eligibility, so only his jersey and not No. 34 was retired in the first place.

Junior offensive tackle Chris Dishman wears No. 75, the same as Shields and Jacobson. And redshirted freshman offensive tackle Ben Gessford has been assigned Wiegert's No. 72.

Freshman place-kicker Kris Brown originally was assigned No. 20, but "we took him out of that when it looked like he would be traveling," Abbott said. Brown, who earned the No. 1 place-kicking job, now wears No. 35. He kicks off and Booker plays on the kickoff coverage team. If both wore No. 20, Nebraska would be penalized for having players wearing the same number on the field at the same time.

That has happened on rare occasions during games at Memorial Stadium, according to Abbott. "We haven't noticed it until they were coming off the field," he said. Fortunately for the Cornhuskers, the officials haven't noticed at all.

The 1995 Nebraska media guide lists 30 duplicate numbers, but you won't see quite that many on the sideline at home games. Junior defensive back Eric Stokes and sophomore quarterback Scott Frost both have been assigned No. 16, for example. But Frost is sitting out the season as a redshirt, after transferring from Stanford, and as such, doesn't suit up for home games.

Terry Rodgers' wearing of his father's No. 20 jersey in the mid-1980s drew considerable attention after Johnny Rodgers agreed to allow his son to wear the jersey he made famous. The decision was Johnny's, which was as it should have been at the time.

But that's not the case anymore. Nebraska can't afford to honor football players in such a way. There will be others in No. 20, No. 30, No. 50, No. 71 and No. 79. It has been that way for a couple of seasons now. Nevertheless, Abbott still hears occasional complaints from traditionalists.

"They haven't heard we can use them (the numbers) again," Abbott said. ■

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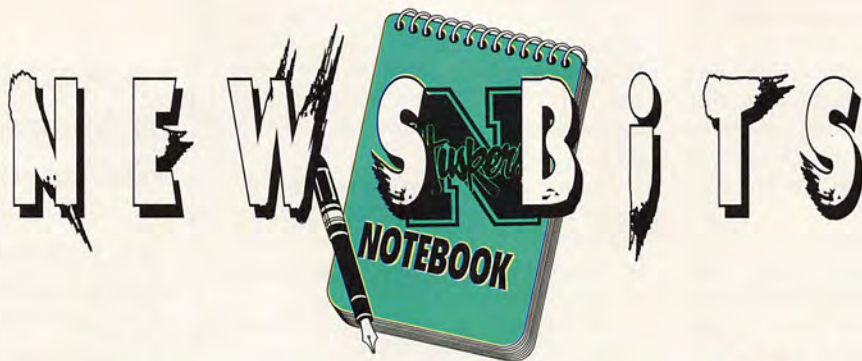
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SPEAKING OUT

Speaking for the players, Tommie Frazier addresses NCAA clamp down

If Tommie Frazier were asked to write an essay on what he did on his summer vacation, he could write that he wrote an essay.

Nebraska's senior quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate wrote an editorial for *The NCAA News*. Frazier's effort, headlined "More rules don't mean better sportsmanship," was published in the June 28 issue. Frazier addressed NCAA concerns about excessive celebration and taunting.

"I believe that the responsibility for good sportsmanship lies in the hands of the coaches and players," he wrote. "If coaches don't set a line of what a player can and cannot do, then some players will give themselves, the university and their teams a bad reputation."

The NCAA Football Rules Committee passed a rule to control such behavior this season. Nebraska wide receiver Reggie Baul drew a penalty because of the new rule for his enthusiasm, after he signaled to Cornhusker fans at Lewis Stadium as he ran to the end zone in Nebraska's 64-21 victory against Oklahoma State.

Baul's behavior didn't seem excessive. Even so, a flag was thrown.

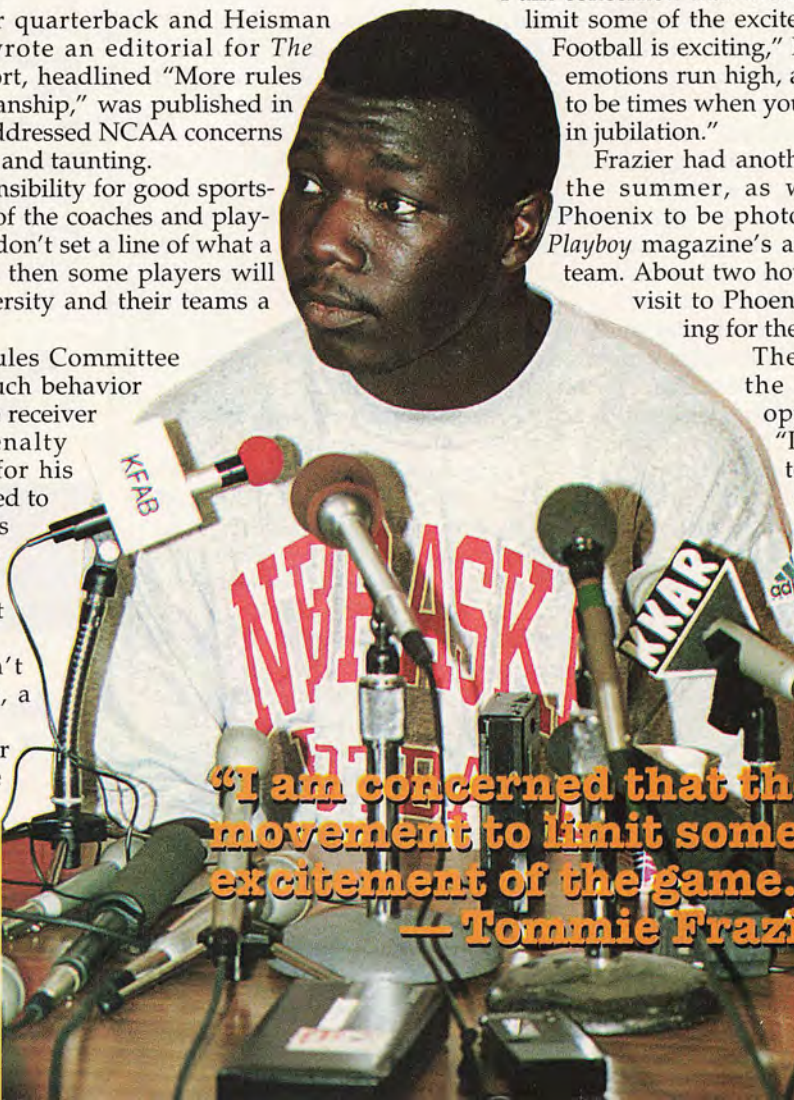
"I don't think any player goes out there to taunt the other player. I believe they have respect for other players," Frazier wrote. "You have to be smart enough to remember that if you start taunting, then someone else is going to do it to you."

There must be some leeway for players to show enthusiasm, Frazier wrote.

"I am concerned that there is a movement to limit some of the excitement of the game. Football is exciting," Frazier wrote. "The emotions run high, and there are going to be times when you are going to react in jubilation."

Frazier had another experience over the summer, as well. He went to Phoenix to be photographed with the *Playboy* magazine's annual All-America team. About two hours of the two-day visit to Phoenix were spent posing for the cameras.

The rest of the time, the players had an opportunity to relax. "It was good to get together with guys and not talk football for once," Frazier told Ken Hambleton of the *Lincoln Journal Star*. ■



**"I am concerned that there is a movement to limit some of the excitement of the game."
— Tommie Frazier**

He's Baaacck!

He's baaacck. For all the Cornhusker fans across the nation who missed the fuzzy, yet lovable, symbol of Nebraska athletics don't worry. For now.

Herbie Husker has returned, but for how long, no one is saying. Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne has decided to bring back the Husker mascot for the time being.

"The issue of Herbie is tabled," Byrne said. "He is and continues to be our mascot and our trademark logo. When we want to bring it off the table, we will."

Herbie missed the Huskers' season-opening win at Oklahoma State before being brought back to life in time to watch the team beat Michigan State 50-10 in East Lansing, Mich.

Nebraska officials were hoping to dump Herbie for a new, more marketable mascot. But Byrne said the decision to bring him back was his alone.

"I'm reluctant to say more because it drags this thing out," he said. ■ — **MARK DEROWITSCH**



After losing to two highly regarded teams, the Husker women's soccer team posted its first victory of the year with a 4-2 win against Loyola-Chicago. And Nebraska did it with a near-record setting performance.

A "W" IN THE BOOKS

The Huskers allowed only two shots on goal in the game to equal the school record. Nebraska outshot Loyola 42-3.

"It wasn't a classic game, but we wanted to come out and establish the tempo physically," Husker coach John Walker (left) said. "We were able to dictate the tempo and push the ball around the field quite a bit and took a lot of shots."

Sophomore Jamie Riley scored two of the Huskers' four goals. ■

CLASSY COACH

Osborne, lauded in a recent national survey as "Best Coach," turns down

Newsday recently surveyed NCAA Division I-A football coaches and determined what Nebraska fans already knew: Nebraska's Tom Osborne is among the nation's best and most respected.

The *Newsday* survey, based on the responses of 57 coaches out of the 108 to whom questionnaires were sent, determined that Penn State's Joe Paterno "runs the best program in the country," with Osborne a close second. No one else was close.

Osborne finished first in the survey's categories for "best coach on the field" and "best teacher."

Osborne finally was rewarded for such qualities with a national championship last season. But he turned down a financial reward.

When athletic department salary increases were determined for the 1995-96 fiscal year, Osborne's not only was below what it could have been, it also was below the department average.

"Tom came to me and said he wanted the minimum raise," Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne said recently. "I told him: 'This is going to raise some eyebrows.' Tom said: 'Tell people it was my decision.'"

Osborne asked that the money set aside to increase his salary be used in raises for his assistants. "He said he had opportunities to generate outside income that they didn't, although Tom shares a lot of that, too," Byrne said.

Osborne received a 2 percent increase, putting his annual salary at \$130,415.

This isn't the first time Osborne has rejected a salary increase. In 1990-91, he attempted to turn down an \$8,500 raise, citing the athletic department's \$2.5 million deficit among his reasons. ■ — **MIKE BABCOCK**





raw POWER

Christian Peter and his younger brother Jason walked into a meeting of the defensive line the week before the Oklahoma State game two years ago with their left biceps bandaged. Christian was a sophomore backup. Jason was a freshman red-shirt.

Cornhusker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride saw the bandages.

"What's that?" McBride wanted to know. He needn't have asked, however. Intuitively, he knew the answer.



Jason and Christian Peter

"It better not be a tattoo," McBride said before either Christian or Jason could respond to the question.

"Your mother's going to kill me," McBride said.

The bandages concealed tattoos of the Peterbilt truck logo. Jason and Christian had gotten the tattoos earlier that day at Ralph's Hungry Eye Tattoo parlor located within walking distance of Memorial Stadium. Getting the tattoos was his and Christian's idea, Jason said recently. But he credited former Cornhusker defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers with coming up with the idea of the Peterbilt logo.

"We didn't want a skull and crossbones, something we'd get tired of when we were older. We wanted tattoos that meant something. We thought that would be good," Jason said.

**There's
more to
the Peter
brothers,
Christían
and Jason
than just
blood
and the
ink on
their arms**

Not only does "Peterbilt" incorporate their surname, it also symbolizes raw power. And the Peter brothers are nothing if not powerful. Christian is listed at 6-foot-2 and 290 pounds, Jason at 6-4 and 275 pounds. Both can bench press 450 pounds. There is no exaggeration in the size or strength of either of them.

Christian, a senior, and Jason, a sophomore, form the interior of Nebraska's defensive front, lining up side by side for the first time in their

Christian would do both. He couldn't have little brother tagging along.

Their sibling tension immediately dissipated when Christian left home to go to Nebraska. "As soon as he left for Nebraska, we became closer. I was always calling him," Jason said. And vice versa.

Christian couldn't play or practice his first year at Nebraska because he hadn't met freshman eligibility requirements under the NCAA's

among the many schools that aggressively recruited him.

In marked contrast, Christian played only one season of high school football. He was persuaded to go out for the team at Middletown South as a junior in 1989. He was ineligible to play as a senior because he exceeded the age limit for New Jersey high school athletes. Three years passed between the time Christian played his one season in high school and when he finally got

"IT'S TOUGH FOR EITHER OF US TO CO

football careers. It is a special opportunity, both agree. It also is in dramatic contrast to the way things used to be between the brothers from Locust, N.J.

When they were in high school, "it was a big brother-younger brother thing," said Jason. "I wanted to hang out with him, and he didn't want me to. So he would either yell at me or beat me up." Sometimes,

Since Jason (95) arrived on campus two years ago, the Peter brothers have been practically inseparable, even before games.

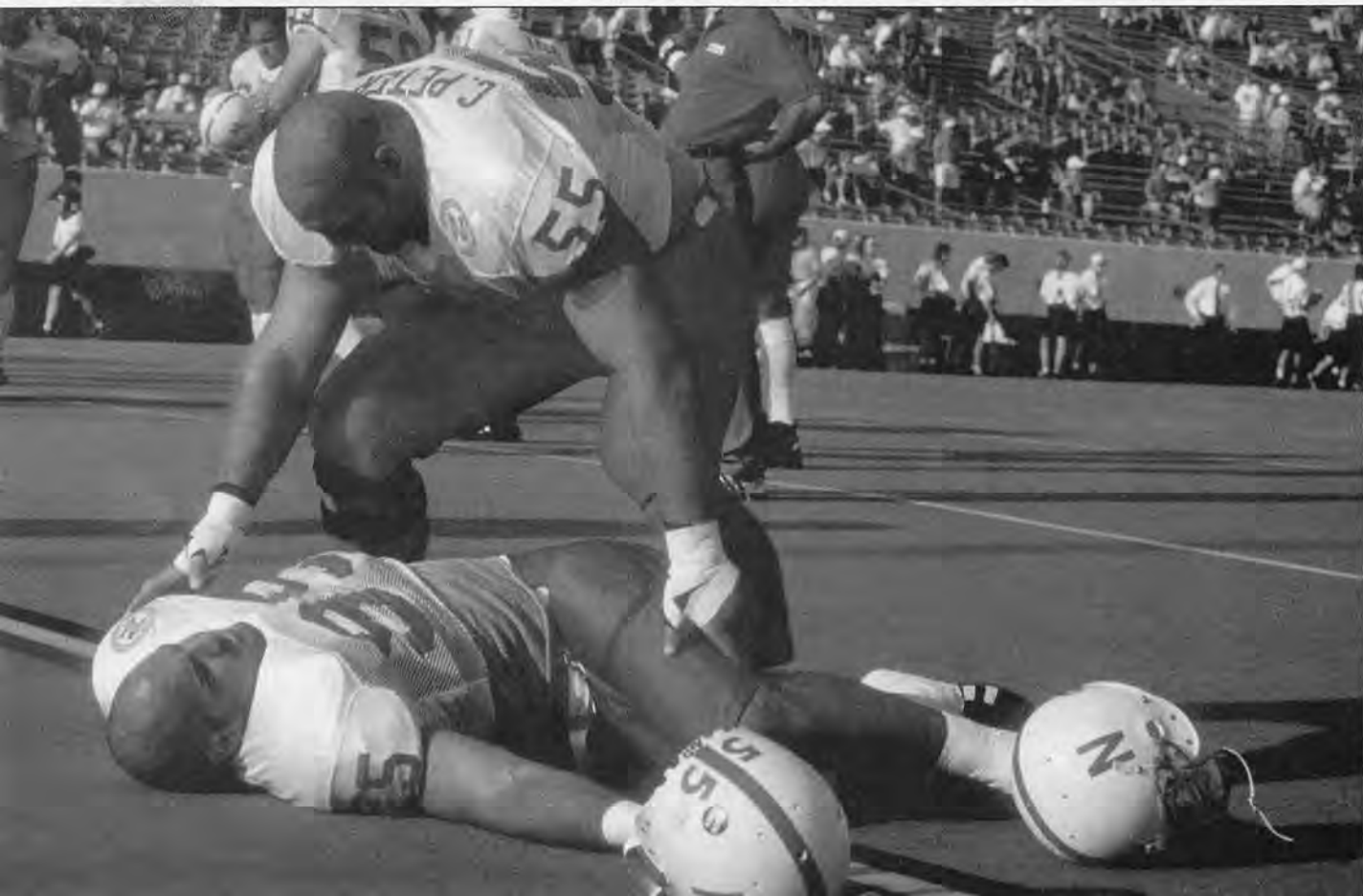
Proposition 48, and he redshirted his second year. Talking to his little brother helped. Then, "once we were both out here we did everything together," said Jason, who turned down several other prominent programs to follow Christian in becoming a Cornhusker.

Jason was a more publicized recruit than his brother. He played for three years at Middletown, N.J., South High School, then attended Milford Academy, a prep school in Milford, Conn., where he earned All-America recognition from SuperPrep magazine. Syracuse, Miami, Washington and Georgia Tech were

into a game at Nebraska.

That Christian was a Cornhusker significantly influenced him, Jason said. "I tried to tell myself it wasn't going to play a big part in my decision. But in the long run, the opportunity to play side by side overtook all of the other reasons."

They could have lined up side by side at Middletown South when Jason was a sophomore. But Christian wasn't eligible that year. They never had an opportunity to play together last season because Christian was a starter and Jason was a backup whose playing time came after the top units were on the



sideline. They finally lined up side by side for the first time in Nebraska's 64-21 victory against Oklahoma State, becoming the first brothers to do so at Nebraska since Jimmy and Toby Williams in the early 1980s.

Afterward, "I told him I was proud of him," Christian said. "I don't usually tell him that."

"It meant a lot to me," Jason said. "It's tough for either of us to compliment the other."

Jason and Christian have become inseparable. Except for when they're in class, they're always together. The personal hardship of their younger brother Damian has drawn them closer. Damian, who earned a football scholarship from Notre Dame, suffered a broken neck diving into a swimming pool. Prior to the accident, "we didn't talk to Damian as much," Jason said. "But when we found out, we both jumped on the first plane home. It was unbeliev-

gourmet cook. Hubert Peter and his brother own a French restaurant.

Home has a similar appeal for Jason now. It was different when he was in high school, however. "You don't realize how good something is until it's gone," Jason said. "I miss just sitting around home, doing nothing. The food, my mom's cooking, the beach, stuff like that. I miss sitting in front of the TV, on the couch, eating."

Their couch in Lincoln goes to the

IMPLIMENT THE OTHER." — Jason Peter

To outsiders, however, it's not so tough. "In my opinion, he's the best defensive lineman in college football today," Jason said of Christian. Before the season is over, many might agree.

Despite his limited experience playing football, Christian Peter ranks among the top defensive linemen in the Big Eight and could have a future in the National Football League. If that doesn't happen, he'll "beef up to about 500 pounds" and sign on with the World Wrestling Federation, he has said.

Christian, who probably could wrestle as the Incredible Hulk, weighed as much as 350 pounds during the time he was waiting to play at Nebraska. Such considerable bulk almost kept him on the sideline for good. It wasn't until he slimmed down to less than 300 pounds that he was mobile enough to play.

By the end of his sophomore year he was beginning to assert himself. Christian became Terry Connealy's backup at nose tackle after an injury to Billy Wade, which led to David Noonan's being moved from nose tackle to tackle to back up Ramaekers. When Connealy and Noonan were sidelined by injuries during the Oklahoma game in 1993, Peter stepped up to make four tackles, including three unassisted, in the 21-7 victory. He was a dominating presence in the middle of Nebraska's interior last season, ranking second on the team in tackles with 71, including 32 unassisted, and leading in both tackles for loss (14) and sacks (7).

able. The whole experience made me realize football is just a game, that there's more to life than football."

There was concern that Damian would never walk again, much less play football. Within a week of the accident, however, he was walking, and a year later, he had almost completely recovered. Damian might even be allowed to resume playing football next season. He works out with the team. "Whether he plays again, I don't care," Jason said.



Christian Peter was dominating as a sophomore finishing second on the team in tackles (71).

"Personally, I hope he doesn't. There's too much risk."

Going away to college and dealing with Damian's crisis have brought Jason and Christian together. Those events also have given them a deeper appreciation for the importance of family. Before heading to New Jersey for a brief visit last spring, Christian said he was eager to get home. He planned to hang out around the house and eat some of his mother's cooking — her lasagna, in particular. Mary Peter is a

swiftest, according to Jason. When he and Christian get home from practice, they often just crash, "pass out," Jason said. The prime place to crash is the couch. "It's all about being the quickest guy to the couch."

The youngest of the Peters' four children, 8-year-old Ashley, is in the second grade. "When I was in high school, it was her waking up in the middle of the night," said Jason. "Now, I wish I were around to see her growing up. Every time I call, she's got a new vocabulary."

The Peter brothers both take considerable pride in their family and their home state, about which they regularly take good-natured joshing from Frank Solich, the Cornhuskers' assistant head coach originally from Cleveland. Solich is familiar with New Jersey because he recruits there. He tells Jason and Christian that he has never been able to find a good pizza parlor in New Jersey and that the New Jersey turnpikes are so jammed with traffic all the time that they border on gridlock.

Jason smiles at Solich's disparaging, tongue-in-cheek remarks about the Garden State. "Coach Solich knows the best pizza is in New Jersey," he said. "The Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland? It can't compare. He just wishes he was from New Jersey."

Jason and Christian intend to persuade their father to get a "Peterbilt" tattoo. "I think we can get one on him," Jason said.

Damian doesn't have one, either. But that's only a matter of time, according to Jason. "Damian's just waiting to build up his biceps." ■




PACIFIC VS. NEBRASKA

3-0 **1-2**

Sept. 23, 1995 • 1 p.m. (CDT)
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.

SERIES RECORD: 1-0 (Nebraska leads)
LAST MEETING: Everyone on the Nebraska sideline got
into the game as Pacific went down 70-21 last year.

SCOUTING REPORT

Huskers Provide Valuable Learning Tools For Pacific

By Mark Derowitsch

Not only does Pacific coach Chuck Shelton try to line up against as many good football teams as he can, he also makes sure his Tigers learn from the experience.

Take 1994 as an example, especially Pacific's game at Nebraska.

A year ago, Shelton brought his Tigers to Lincoln and left town after a 70-21 whipping. Consider the facts that Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier hardly played because of what turned out to be blood clots in his leg, and Nebraska coach Tom Osborne played everyone in Memorial Stadium who happened to be wearing a red uniform.

No matter. Shelton said that learning experience was too valuable to pass up.

"Sure we got beat bad, and it could have been worse if Tom wanted it to be," Shelton said. "But you would not talk to one kid on last year's team who would tell you it was a bad experience in Lincoln."

Pacific proved it was a quick learner after the disaster in Lincoln. The Tigers went on to post a 6-5

record, the first winning season at the school since 1978. The Tigers, who also finished fourth in the Big West Conference with a 4-2 mark, only lost to Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon State and San Jose State.

Their only home loss of the season was to San Jose State in the season finale.

And all the credit for the season can be traced back to the disaster in Lincoln.

"We kind of came together at Nebraska," he said. "The kids found out they could play against a vastly superior team and not have to go hide their heads in the sand."

Pacific will try to get another positive learning experience when it travels to Lincoln once again to take on the Huskers Saturday in a 1 p.m. game at Memorial Stadium.

But already the Tigers have taken additional steps forward from last season.

After losing to Arizona 35-9 in the season-opener, the Tigers came back the following week to beat Oregon State 23-10, avenging a 24-12 loss from a year ago.



Chuck Shelton's team has shown signs of being a tough squad in 1995.

PRESS PICKS



• **Mike Babcock, Huskers Illustrated:** This game will give the Nebraska football program a bit of a break as it prepares to play Washington State and wrap up its non-conference schedule. In light of recent events, the Cornhuskers could use an emotional break. Nebraska needs to guard against taking the University of the Pacific too lightly. But, even on a very bad day for the Cornhuskers, the game with UOP is not likely to be much of a challenge. Many Nebraska players will see time and get good game experience.
Nebraska 63, Pacific 7.

• **Jim Rose, SportsDay Mid America:** Is there any way in which we could play the volleyball match between these two at Memorial Stadium and the football game at Nebraska Coliseum? The two schools volleyball programs are comparable, the football teams are far from it. Nebraska will have this one in a cake walk.
Nebraska 70, Pacific 14.

• **Chris Fowler, ESPN:** Ugly. Herbie the Husker could start at I-back and the Nebraska offense would still rush for 400-plus yards.
Nebraska 50, Pacific 7.

• **Brad Hungerford, sports editor, The Pacifican:** Pacific is stronger than last year. With the loss of Lawrence Phillips, maybe Pacific will have a better showing.
Nebraska 56, Pacific 28.

• **Doug Looney, college football freelance writer:** Why would anyone want to watch this game? This is an insult to college football fans. The people who scheduled this one should be banned from football forever. Nebraska can score as many points as it wants to, and from Tom Osborne's history, it just might. Fifty-one for Nebraska might still be light.
Nebraska 51, Pacific 3.

The Tigers are doing it with defense, holding opponents to 350 yards of offense per game.

Defensive end Jyme Daniels, who backs up starter Jason Evans, was named the Big West's co-defensive player of the week after his 10-tackle, two-sack performance against the Beavers.

The secondary is where the Tigers appear to be the strongest, holding foes to 165 passing yards per game. The leader is left cornerback Ray Stukes, who has posted a team-best 15 tackles, picked off a pass and broken up three others.

Free safety Matt Kilgras, a junior who has earned two letters and was a starter last year, is second on the squad with 14 tackles after two games, including one for a loss. Strong safety Rodney Campbell and cornerback Ed Atlas also start in the defensive backfield for the Tigers.

Weak-side linebacker Vince Bruno is a versatile athlete. Bruno, a

6-foot-2, 225-pound junior, has 13 tackles and also picked off a pass to open the year. Pacific's outside linebackers — Elliott Burke and Clint Carter — have combined for two sacks and two tackles for loss in the early part of the year.

Up front, the Tigers have struggled, giving up an average of 215 yards per game on the ground. Evans and Daniels share the nose tackle spot, while Sean Duncan and Steve Wright are the starting tackles.

Duncan, who is 6-4 but weighs only 247 pounds, is averaging two tackles for loss and one sack a game. He's also broken up one pass from his spot on the line.

When talking about the Tigers' offense, the name Joe Abdullah says it all.

After rushing for 1,075 during his first year at Pacific as a junior, Abdullah opened the 1995 season where he left off. In two games, he's carried the ball 47 times for 205 yards and a touchdown.

Abdullah transferred to Pacific after spending two years at Marshall Faulk's backup at San Diego State. Faulk is now with the NFL's Indianapolis Colts and is considered one of the top running backs in the league.

Abdullah benefits from a line that has two starters who weigh more than 300 pounds and whose smallest member is 272-pound center Justin Werth.

Guard Dan Weldon is a 302-pound senior and tackle Tafa Jefferson tips the scales at 304. Guard Bryan Chiu and tackle Hormaz Jangi both weigh 280 pounds.



Bob Berry

This year's Pacific team feels it can play a better game than the squad that was spanked in Lincoln, 70-21.

At quarterback, Chad Fotheringham takes over for Craig Whelihan, who was drafted by the San Diego Chargers last spring. So far, his numbers haven't been great. He completed 29-of-61 passes for 267 yards and one touchdown in his first two starts. He's backed up by Nick Sellers, a 60 percent passer who has seen limited action.

Slotback Eric Atkins is the Tigers' leading receiver, averaging three receptions and 40 yards per game. He has also hauled in one of the Tigers' two touchdown passes.

Tyrone Watley made five catches in the first two games while wide receiver Damon Bowers also is a key member of the passing game. ■

1995 PACIFIC FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Overall/Conf.) — 1-2/0-0

Sept. 2	@ Arizona	L, 9-41
Sept. 9	Oregon State	W, 23-10
Sept. 16	@ Fresno State	L, 56-24
Sept. 23	@ Nebraska	
Oct. 7	@ Oregon	
Oct. 14	Louisiana Tech	
Oct. 21	@ SW Louisiana	
Oct. 28	@ San Jose St.	
Nov. 4	New Mexico St.	
Nov. 11	Nevada	
Nov. 18	@ Utah State	

PACIFIC VS. NEBRASKA TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	7	Reggie Baul	5-8	170	Sr
	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	180	Jr
LT	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	285	Jr
LG	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	So
	68	Steve Volin	6-2	290	Sr
C	54	Aaron Graham	6-4	285	Sr
	53	Matt Vrzal	6-1	300	Jr
RG	69	Steve Ott	6-4	290	Sr
	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	280	So
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	So
	77	Adam Treu	6-6	295	Jr
TE	87	Mark Gilman	6-3	240	Sr
	90	Tim Carpenter	6-2	240	So
QB	15	Tommie Frazier	6-2	210	Sr
	18	Brook Berringer	6-4	220	Sr
FB	22	Jeff Makovicka	5-11	225	Sr
	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Jr
IB	26	Clinton Childs	6-0	215	Sr
	30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	Fr
WB	33	Clester Johnson	5-11	210	Sr
	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	200	Jr
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-11	190	Fr

TIGER DEFENSE

LT	94	Sean Duncan	6-4	247	Jr
	79	Steve Wright	6-5	251	Jr
NT	58	Jason Evans	6-1	265	Jr
	98	Jyme Daniels	6-2	304	Sr
RT	79	Steve Wright	6-5	251	Jr
	58	Jason Evans	6-1	265	Jr
OLB	36	Clint Carter	6-0	228	Jr
	84	Shon Kendall	6-3	240	So
SLB	10	Bill Denny	6-1	225	Sr
	52	Ty Locatelli	6-1	220	So
WLB	92	Vince Bruno	6-2	225	Jr
	50	Ed Tatola	5-11	242	Sr
OLB	95	Elliott Burke	6-3	251	Sr
	55	Tom Stone	6-4	225	Jr
LC	2	Ray Stukes	5-9	172	Sr
	4	Rodney Campbell	5-10	180	Sr
SS	4	Rodney Campbell	5-10	180	Sr
	24	Eddie LeBaron	6-1	200	So
FS	23	Matt Kilgras	5-10	180	Jr
	42	Nigel Burton	5-8	165	Fr
RC	3	Ed Atlas	5-9	165	Jr
	31	Ryan McGinnis	5-9	165	Jr
P	15	Roger Fleenor	6-1	180	So

TIGER OFFENSE

WR	81	Tyrone Watley	5-10	176	Jr
	6	Ron Smith	6-2	185	Sr
LT	71	Hormaz Jangi	6-3	281	Sr
	70	Jayson Blaine	6-5	270	Jr
LG	75	Dan Weldon	6-5	302	Sr
	66	Darrin Faler	6-3	285	So
C	56	Justin Werth	6-2	272	Jr
	62	Bryan Chiu	6-2	287	Jr
RG	62	Bryan Chiu	6-2	287	Jr
	60	Branon Kane	6-3	295	Sr
RT	68	Tafa Jefferson	6-5	304	Sr
	78	Jason DeAnda	6-3	260	Sr
TE	85	Ryan Green	6-5	239	Jr
	17	Mike Morales	6-1	219	Jr
QB	16	Chad Fotheringham	6-6	232	Jr
	8	Nick Sellers	6-0	182	Sr
FB	26	Kerry Blakney	5-11	233	Sr
	20	Michael Edwards	5-11	236	Jr
TB	33	Joe Abdullah	6-0	220	Sr
	25	Yasin Reeder	5-10	183	Jr
WR	12	Damon Bowers	5-9	186	Jr
	9	Greg Weston	5-10	182	Jr
PK	15	Roger Fleenor	6-1	180	So

HUSKER DEFENSE

OLB	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	250	Jr
	58	Luther Hardin	6-2	245	Sr
DT	55	Christian Peter	6-3	300	Sr
	94	Larry Townsend	6-4	300	Jr
DT	95	Jason Peter	6-4	275	So
	96	Jason Jenkins	6-5	280	Sr
OLB	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	240	So
	84	Mike Rucker	6-5	240	Fr
SLB	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	220	Fr
	23	Larry Arnold	6-4	230	Jr
MLB	41	Phil Ellis	6-2	225	Sr
	46	Doug Colman	6-3	245	Sr
WLB	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	225	Jr
	52	Aaron Penland	6-1	220	Sr
LC	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	180	Jr
	20	Michael Booker	6-2	190	Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Jr
	4	Octavius McFarlin	5-11	190	So
FS	9	Tony Veland	6-2	205	Sr
	3	Eric Warfield	6-1	195	So
RC	8	Tyrone Williams	6-1	185	Sr
	2	Leslie Dennis	5-8	165	So
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	180	So

Depth charts were compiled September 17, 1995 # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

Sun Devils End Up In The Wrong Place At Wrong Time

Lance Brown was pleased with the play. Bruce Snyder was not. Brown, a redshirted sophomore from Papillion, Neb., tossed aside his helmet and did a backflip on the sideline after scoring the final touchdown in No. 2-ranked Nebraska's 77-28 victory against Arizona State on Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

Brown, a reserve wingback who has been beset by injury problems during his brief career, and third-string quarterback Matt Turman teamed up for a 39-yard touchdown pass on a third-and-13 with 38 seconds remaining in the contest.

It was the amount of time left, coupled with the fact Nebraska took a timeout before the play, that upset Snyder, Arizona State's coach.

Snyder regarded the sequence of events as evidence the Cornhuskers were running up the score. "I apologized to Bruce," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "I felt bad about it. It was a bush league thing to do. That was my mistake. We should have just run a draw play and ran out the clock."

He had called the pass, with Brown running a hook pattern, in hopes of getting a first down so he could put in some players who hadn't gotten into the game, Osborne said. Nebraska used 98 players in the game.

Based on the defensive back's reaction to the play, however, Brown went deep — for the touchdown. "I feel terrible about that last play," said Osborne.

Appearances aside, it didn't much matter whether Nebraska won by 42 points or 49 points. The Cornhuskers were clearly the better team, even with-

out I-back Lawrence Phillips, who was suspended indefinitely by Osborne after being charged with misdemeanor assault of a former girlfriend.

Nebraska was without its first two I-backs, in fact. Junior Damon Benning, who also faces legal problems, was held out of the game because of a pulled hamstring, which limited his practice during the week.

As a result, senior Clinton Childs, who had been spending much of his time at fullback, started at I-back and responded by rushing for 143 yards and two touchdowns before

Nebraska increased its lead to 28-0 after wingback Jon Vedral (25) went up high to pull down a 27-yard pass from Tommie Frazier in the first quarter.



Arizona State game photos by Bob Berry







Only a knee strain could slow Clinton Childs (26) as he rushed for 143 yards and two scores in his first start at I-back.

being sidelined by a knee strain.

The 202nd consecutive sellout crowd at Memorial Stadium had to wait only a few seconds to find out Childs could handle the responsibility. On the game's first play from scrimmage, he took a pitch from Frazier and ran 65 yards for the first of his touchdowns.

Childs skirted his left end and was never touched by a defender. "It was just an outside sweep, and I think they blitzed to the other side," said Osborne. "The corner just kind of ran himself out of position."

When he got to the outside, "I didn't see anybody in sight. I just hoped with the bigger frame I had (for fullback), I wouldn't get caught from behind," the 215-pound Childs said.

He was pulling away from defenders at the end of the run. "I could've kept going," he said. Eleven seconds into the game, Nebraska led 7-0.

Childs' second touchdown came on a 38-yard run, on a third-and-3. He made it look almost as easy as the first, except that he was touched — by an official who couldn't get out of the way fast enough. Childs refused to take the credit for his touchdowns, however. That belonged to the offensive line.

"They opened holes for me; I scored touchdowns for them," he

said.

Just under five minutes after Childs scored his first touchdown, true freshman Ahman Green, the No. 2 I-back for the game, scored the first of his two touchdowns on a 3-yard run, to complete a nine-play, 64-yard drive that used up 3:31 on the clock.

Nebraska scored on its first seven possessions and set school records for points in the first quarter (35) and in a half (63). The Cornhuskers

led 63-21 at halftime and had gained 508 total yards.

"The first half we came out ready to play. Everything we did was working," said quarterback Tommie Frazier, whose availability was in question throughout the week because of a deep thigh bruise suffered in the previous victory at Michigan State.

Frazier ran for two touchdowns and threw for two, completing 7-of-10 passes for 191 yards. The first

Nebraska's offense rolled a pair of sevens in a surprisingly easy 77-28 victory against Arizona State.

"It was just kind of an avalanche," Sun Devil coach Bruce Snyder said. "I've never been in an avalanche, but that was kind of the feeling. It was kind of the feeling of 'My God,' in standing there and there's nothing I can do about it. I believe the players probably felt the same way. You have a sense of helplessness."

Arizona State wasn't the only Nebraska opponent during Tom Osborne's tenure as head coach to experience such a sense of helplessness. It was the seventh time in the last 23 seasons that the Cornhuskers have scored 70 or more points. The 77 were the most since 1984, when Nebraska defeated Minnesota at Minneapolis 84-13. That point total was a modern-era record.

The Cornhuskers' 10 highest scores during the Osborne era:

Minnesota (1984) 84-13
Arizona State (1995) 77-28
 North Texas (1993) 76-14
 Iowa State (1983) 72-29
 Colorado State (1991) 71-14
 Pacific (1994) 70-21
 Kansas (1986) 70-0
 Missouri (1990) 69-21
 Colorado (1983) 69-19
 Indiana (1978) 69-17

The Cornhuskers scored 63 of the points in the first half, a modern era record, breaking the previous mark of 55 points in a half, established in the second half of the 1983 victory against Colorado at Memorial Stadium.

**OFFENSIVE
EXPLOSION**

scoring pass went to Jon Vedral and covered 27 yards. The second, a 28-yarder, went to Clester Johnson, who finished with four receptions for 129 yards.

Nebraska's other touchdowns were scored by fullback Jeff Makovicka, on a 13-yard run with no time left in the first quarter, and line-backer Terrell Farley, who intercepted a pass and returned it 21 yards about three minutes into the fourth quarter.

Farley, a transfer from Independence, Kan., Junior College, also returned an interception for a touchdown in the season-opening, 64-21 victory against Oklahoma State.

Despite falling behind 28-0 less than 10 minutes into the game, Arizona State caused a few first-half problems for the Cornhusker defense. Quarterback Jake Plummer, a 6-foot-2, 192-pound junior from Boise, Idaho, passed for three touchdowns, all to junior wide receiver Keith Poole.

"Plummer is a good player," Osborne said. "When he had somebody open, he usually got it there."

Usually that somebody open was Poole, who finished with six receptions for 200 yards, 80 of which came on one touchdown pass play. "We wanted to match our big-play offense with a big-play defense," Nebraska secondary coach George Darlington said.

That was not to be, however. The defensive problems were similar to those the Cornhuskers experienced last season in a 42-32 victory against Wyoming, according to Darlington.

The difference was the play of Nebraska's offense on Saturday. It was "unbelievable," Darlington said. "I was amazed at how the offense played."

Plummer finished with 12 completions in 26 attempts for 273 yards. He was sacked only once.

Arizona State finished with 461 yards, a total that paled by comparison to Nebraska's 686 yards.

"Our defense got put on their heels and couldn't rebound. There was no other part of our team that could help our defense," said Snyder. "We knew the biggest challenge in this game would be our defense against their offense. Certainly early, it was a challenge, and we didn't help our defense very much in terms of what the rest of the team needed to do."

Nebraska called a timeout late in the first half, before a Sun Devil

punt, to set up its ninth touchdown. The four-play, 41-yard sequence began with a 36-yard pass play from Frazier to split end Reggie Baul.

Osborne said he wouldn't have forced the issue at that point "had we been shutting them down (defensively). But they had scored so quickly on three occasions that (he figured) if we had a chance, we'd better score."

Florida State, ranked No. 1 in both major polls, also scored 77 points on Saturday, in a 77-17 victory against North Carolina State. No. 3 Texas A&M defeated Tulsa 52-9. No. 7 Penn State beat Temple 66-14. And No. 9 Colorado scored 66 points

in an easy victory against Northeast Louisiana.

But it wasn't with an eye on the scoreboard that Osborne took a timeout and called the final pass play. "Winning margins are a lot of baloney," he said. "We've never tried to do that (run up a score). What some other coach does doesn't bother me."

If Poole had a vote in one of the polls, it probably would go to Nebraska, regardless of the margin of victory. The Cornhuskers "shocked us a little bit," he said. "They're the best team I've ever played against. I give them all the credit in the world." ■

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1994

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STATISTICS VS. ARIZONA STATE

SEPTEMBER 16, 1995

SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	35	28	0	14	77
ARIZONA STATE	7	14	7	0	28

TEAM STATS

	ASU	NU
First Downs	17	30
Rushing	8	21
Passing	9	9
Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	45	55
Yards Gained Rushing	180	423
Yards Lost Rushing	9	29
Net yards rushing	171	394
Net yards passing	290	292
Passes attempted	33	20
Passes completed	14	12
Had intercepted	2	1
Total plays	78	75
Total net yards	461	686
Avg. gain per play	5.9	9.1
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	8-66	5-30
Punts-yards	7-276	2-122
Avg. per punt	39.4	61.0
Possession time	32:33	27:27

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA						
Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.	
Minter, M.	3	5	8	0	0	
Saltsman, S.	1	5	6	0	0	
Foreman, J.	1	4	5	0	0	
Ellis, P.	0	5	5	0	0	
Colman, D.	3	2	5	0	0	
Terwilliger, R.	4	1	5	0	0	
Farley, T.	0	4	4	0	1	
Hesse, J.	1	3	4	0	0	
Peter, C.	1	2	3	0	0	
Wistrom, G.	2	1	3	0	0	
Arnold, L.	0	3	3	0	0	
Warfield, E.	0	3	3	0	0	
Penland, A.	0	3	3	0	0	
Williams, J.	0	3	3	0	0	
Tomich, J.	2	0	2	1	0	
Booker, M.	0	2	2	0	1	

ARIZONA STATE						
Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.	
Vonder Ahe, S.	4	6	10	0	0	
Dragoo, J.	3	5	8	0	0	
Richardson, D.	0	8	8	0	0	
Smith, D.	0	5	5	0	1	

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Childs, C.	12	143	11.9	65	2
Green, A.	13	111	8.5	26	2
Sims, J.	7	47	6.7	11	0
Frazier, T.	5	35	7.0	18	2
Makovicka, Jeff	8	33	4.1	13	1
Schuster, B.	2	11	5.5	8	0
Turman, M.	2	10	5.0	11	0
Berringer, B.	3	2	0.6	4	0

ARIZONA STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Battle, T.	9	52	5.7	14	1
Martin, M.	11	40	3.6	9	0
Hopkins, C.	12	39	3.2	13	0
Boyer, R.	2	23	11.5	25	0

PASSING NEBRASKA

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Frazier, T.	10-7-1	191	2
Berringer, B.	6-2-0	16	0
Turman, M.	2-2-0	51	1
Childs, C.	1-1-0	34	0

ARIZONA STATE

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Plummer, J.	26-12-1	273	3

RECEIVING NEBRASKA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Johnson, C.	4	129	32.3	61	1
Gilman, M.	3	39	13.0	22	0
Brown, L.	1	39	39.0	39	1
Baul, R.	1	36	36.0	36	0
Vedral, J.	1	27	27.0	27	1
Jackson, V.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Cheatham, K.	1	10	10.0	10	0

ARIZONA STATE

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Poole, K.	6	200	33.3	80	3
Bush, S.	3	24	8.0	11	0
Boyer, R.	2	17	8.5	13	0
Charles, D.	1	38	38.0	38	0

PUNT/KICKOFF RETURNS NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Lng	TD
Baul, R.	1	28	28	0
Cheatham, K.	2	25	23	0
Childs, C.	1	37	37	0
Green, A.	1	5	5	0

ARIZONA STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Lng	TD
Hopkins, C.	3	45	22	0

1995 SEASON STATS (3 GAMES)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Phillips, L.	2	34	359	179.5	7
Green, A.	3	23	237	79.0	4
Childs, C.	2	20	226	113.0	2
Sims, J.	3	12	161	53.6	2
Frazier, T.	3	20	129	43.0	3
Makovicka, Jeff	3	21	117	39.0	1
Makovicka, Joel	3	10	64	21.3	0
Benning, D.	2	8	62	31.0	0
Schuster, B.	3	7	41	13.6	0
Berringer, B.	3	8	39	13.0	0
Turman, M.	3	4	22	7.3	0

PASSING

Name	G	A-C-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frazier, T.	3	22-14-1	.636	319	4
Berringer, B.	3	25-13-0	.520	153	0
Turman, M.	3	5-3-1	.600	58	1

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Baul, R.	3	3	163	54.3	54.3	1
Johnson, C.	2	5	138	27.6	69.0	1
Gilman, M.	3	8	83	10.4	27.6	0
Vedral, J.	3	3	62	20.6	20.6	2
Holbein, B.	3	5	31	6.2	10.3	0
Cheatham, K.	2	2	12	6.0	6.0	0
Childs, C.	2	1	10	10	5.0	0
Phillips, L.	2	1	7	7.0	3.5	0
Lake, J.	2	1	7	7.0	3.5	0
Jackson, S.	2	1	1	1.0	0.5	0

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Ellis, P.	3	9	9	18	0	2
Minter, M.	3	10	8	18	1	0
Hesse, J.	3	7	9	16	0	0
Peter, C.	3	5	9	14	0	0
Terwilliger, R.	3	10	4	14	0	0
Foreman, J.	3	3	10	13	0	0
Penland, A.	3	4	8	12	0	0
Farley, T.	3	6	6	12	2	2
Veland, T.	3	4	6	10	0	0
Wistrom, G.	3	4	6	10	0	0
Saltsman, S.	3	4	6	10	0	1
Kelsay, C.	3	4	5	9	0	0
Booker, M.	3	5	4	9	1	0
McFarlin, O.	3	4	4	8	0	0
Tomich, J.	3	6	2	8	0	4
Stokes, E.	3	3	5	8	0	0
Colman, D.	3	3	5	8	0	0
Williams, J.	3	3	4	7	0	0
Warfield, E.	3	3	4	7	0	0
Arnold, L.	3	1	6	7	0	0
Williams, T.	3	4	2	6	0	0
Rucker, M.	3	1	5	6	0	0
Peter, J.	3	1	4	5	0	0

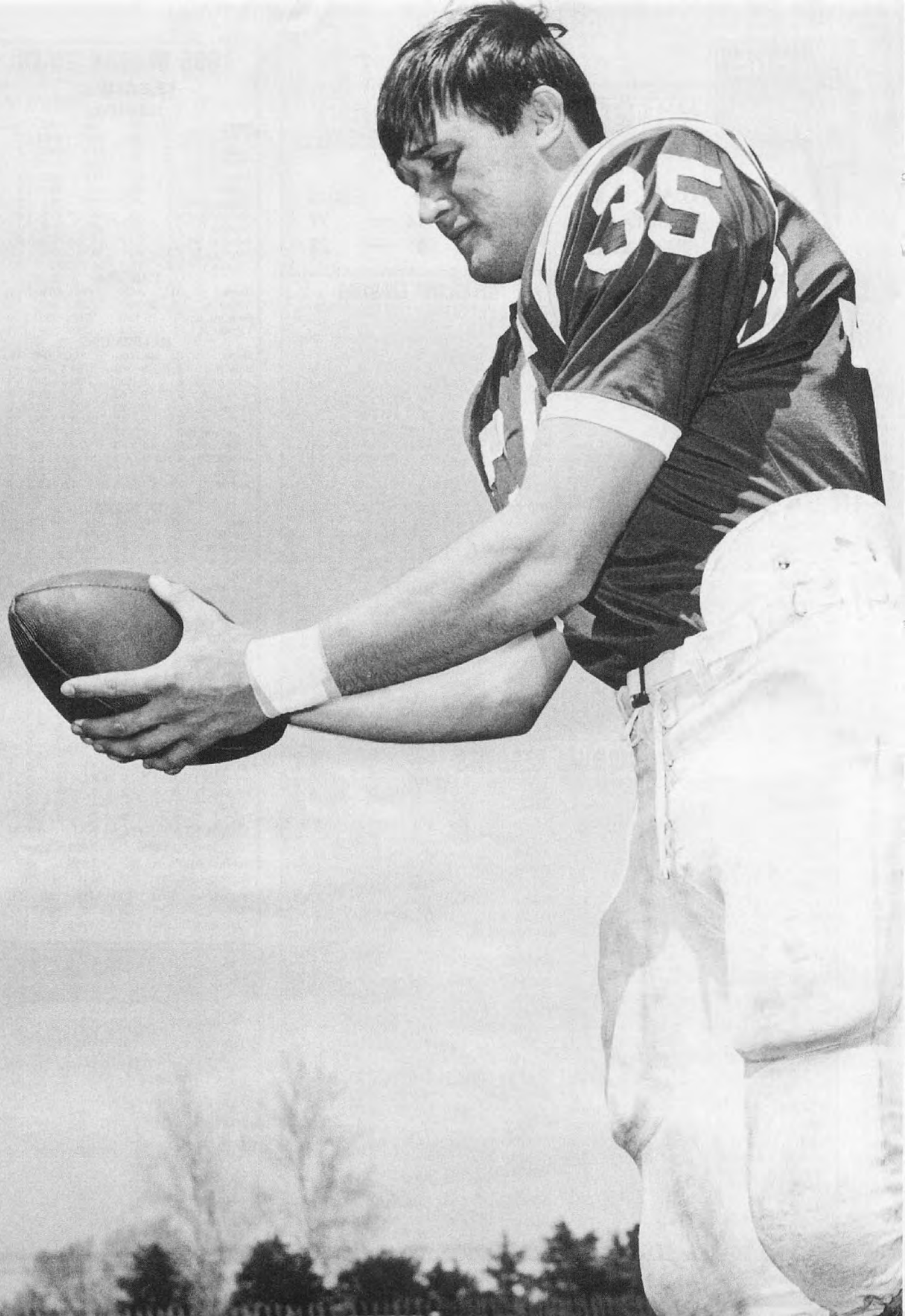
TEAM STATISTICS	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	2,023	1,078
Net Rushing Yards	1,459	360
Passing Yards	564	718

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT
NU	51	68	30	42	191
Opponents	14	21	17	7	59

1995 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Conference) — 3-0

Aug. 31	@ Oklahoma St.	W, 64-21
Sept. 9	@ Michigan St.	W, 50-10
Sept. 16	Arizona St.	W, 77-28
Sept. 23	Pacific	
Sept. 30	Washington St.	
Oct. 14	Missouri	
Oct. 21	Kansas St.	
Oct. 28	@ Colorado	
Nov. 4	Iowa St.	
Nov. 11	@ Kansas	
Nov. 25	Oklahoma	



Sooner Killer

He compiled impressive statistics for Nebraska's national champions of the early 1970s, but Jeff Kinney took his game to another level against rival OU

Editor's Note — This is the fourth of an 11-part series featuring the best Nebraska running backs of the modern era. Next week we'll profile I.M. Hipp.

W

ith 1:38 remaining in the Nebraska-Oklahoma game on Thanksgiving Day in 1971, Jeff Kinney scored a touchdown from 2 yards out.

It was his fourth touchdown of the afternoon, capping a 12-play, 74-yard drive that consumed five minutes and 32 seconds. More importantly, however, it provided the points the No. 1-ranked Cornhuskers needed for a 35-31 victory against the No. 2-ranked Sooners, in the "Game of the Century" at Owen Field in Norman, Okla.

The image of Kinney fighting for yards has come to represent Nebraska's effort that day.

His No. 35 white, tear-away jersey was in shreds when he ran off the field after the fourth touchdown, underscoring the game's drama. Kinney probably would be remembered with the greatest running backs in Cornhusker history for that performance alone.

His career would have been distinguished even without it, however. Nebraska has had few, if any, running backs who combined Kinney's rushing and pass-catching skills. He ranks 10th on the Cornhuskers' modern career rushing list and second on the pass receiving list, behind only Johnny Rodgers.

In three seasons, Kinney caught 82 passes, good for 864 yards and three touchdowns. Perhaps, his most important pass reception came in the 1971 Orange Bowl victory against Louisiana State. Nebraska trailed 12-10 in the fourth quarter and faced a third down at the LSU 22-yard line. Kinney's job was to block a linebacker, while Rodgers and tight end Jerry List went deep. But the Tigers defenders followed Rodgers and List, leaving Kinney open underneath.

After finding his primary receivers covered, quarterback Jerry

top 10 Running Backs In The Modern Era

Bobby Reynolds.....	1950-52
Harry Wilson	1964-66
Jeff Kinney	1969-71
I.M. Hipp	1977-79
Jarvis Redwine	1979-80
Mike Rozier	1981-83
Keith Jones	1984-87
Ken Clark	1987-89
Derek Brown	1990-92
Calvin Jones	1991-93

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Tagge looked to Kinney. The catch was good for 17 yards and a first down. Three plays later, Tagge pushed across the goal line for the winning score and Nebraska had the first of its back-to-back national championships.

"It sure felt good to catch that pass," Kinney said afterward.

Kinney might have caught a lot more passes during his Cornhusker career if Joe Orduna hadn't suffered a knee injury during fall camp in 1969. Orduna was sidelined for the season because of the injury, and Kinney was moved from slotback (wingback) to halfback to shore up Orduna's position.

Kinney had been competing with senior Larry Frost at slotback, after moving from quarterback during the fall of his freshman year.

Kinney had been a quarterback at

depth chart and went into the fall expecting to play as Frost's backup.

Kinney's opportunity at I-back was further enhanced when Frank Vactor, who had replaced Orduna, also was injured. Though Vactor's injury wasn't as serious as Orduna's, it slowed him enough to enable Kinney to break into the lineup and become a regular.

Kinney led Nebraska in rushing and receiving as a sophomore, but his first season wasn't without problems. He fumbled three times during a 13-3 victory against Oklahoma State. Mike Corgan, the Cornhusker running backs coach, took him out of the game so he could regain his composure, then sent him back onto the field, a show of confidence Kinney appreciated.

At first, "I wasn't a great runner because I couldn't read blocks very



University of Nebraska Sports Information

McCook, Neb., High School. He also played tailback, linebacker and safety as a senior. But he began his freshman season as a quarterback. It appeared he might start the freshman team's first game at quarterback. But when Jerry Tagge and Van Brownson began to assert themselves, he moved to slotback.

Kinney led the freshman team in receiving, with 16 catches for 233 yards and two touchdowns. "At the time I thought I was a better receiver than runner," Kinney said.

In the spring of his freshman year, he worked his way up on the

Kinney's (25) most memorable performance came against the Sooners in 1969 when he rushed for 127 yards and three touchdowns.

well," Kinney said years later. "I just had to learn how to run to daylight. The last two or three games, I started coming around."

He scored the winning touchdown on a 6-yard run with 1:22 remaining in Nebraska's 21-17 victory against Kansas in 1969. The touchdown, his second of the game, capped an 88-yard drive. He also

caught a two-point conversion pass in the victory, which initiated a 29-game unbeaten streak. Kinney played in only two losses as a Cornhusker.

His most memorable performance in 1969 came in the final game of the regular season at Norman, Okla. A year earlier, Nebraska had lost to the Sooners, also in Norman, 47-0. Bob Devaney has called that loss the low point in his coaching career.

The Cornhuskers exacted revenge in 1969, winning 44-14, to earn a share of the Big Eight championship — along with Missouri. Kinney overshadowed Steve Owens, Oklahoma's Heisman Trophy-winning fullback that day, rushing for 127 yards and scoring three touchdowns. He also threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to split end Guy Ingles.

Nebraska's defense limited Owens to 71 yards rushing and held him without a touchdown for the first time in 17 games. Kinney "arrived" with his effort at Oklahoma, Lincoln sports writer Don Forsythe wrote.

Kinney finished his sophomore season with 546 yards and nine touchdowns rushing, and 41 catches for 433 yards and two touchdowns receiving. He "flashed to stardom as a sophomore in the most impressive Nebraska debut since Bobby Reynolds in 1950," sports information director Don Bryant wrote in Nebraska's 1970 media guide.

Orduna returned in 1970 and the two alternated at I-back on Nebraska's first national championship team. Orduna led the Cornhuskers in rushing, with 834 yards and 14 touchdowns. Kinney was second, with 661 yards. He also tied fullback Dan Schneiss for fourth in receptions, with 18 for 179 yards.

Kinney became the focus of Nebraska's running game in 1971. After two varsity seasons playing for Corgan, he was a confident ball carrier. Prior to the season, Kinney said: "Coach Corgan says 'Read it like you see it,' and I can always find a crack or something. I can read the holes at a faster speed because of experience."

Kinney became the second Cornhusker in modern history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season, gaining 1,037 in 12 regular-season games. His biggest day was the one at Oklahoma, when he rushed for 154 yards in the second half to finish with 174.

He was the go-to guy at the end

of the drive, which was kept alive with a shoestring catch of a Tagge pass by Rodgers at the Sooner 35-yard line on a third-and-eight from the Oklahoma 46. Kinney picked up 13 yards and another first down at the 22. Rodgers gained 7 yards to the 15, then Kinney got the ball on four consecutive downs.

He gained 7 yards to the Sooner 8, then 2 and 4 to set up the touchdown play, which completed a remarkable two games for Kinney in Norman. He rushed for a combined 301 yards and six touchdowns, caught one touchdown pass and passed for a touchdown at Oklahoma's Owen Field.

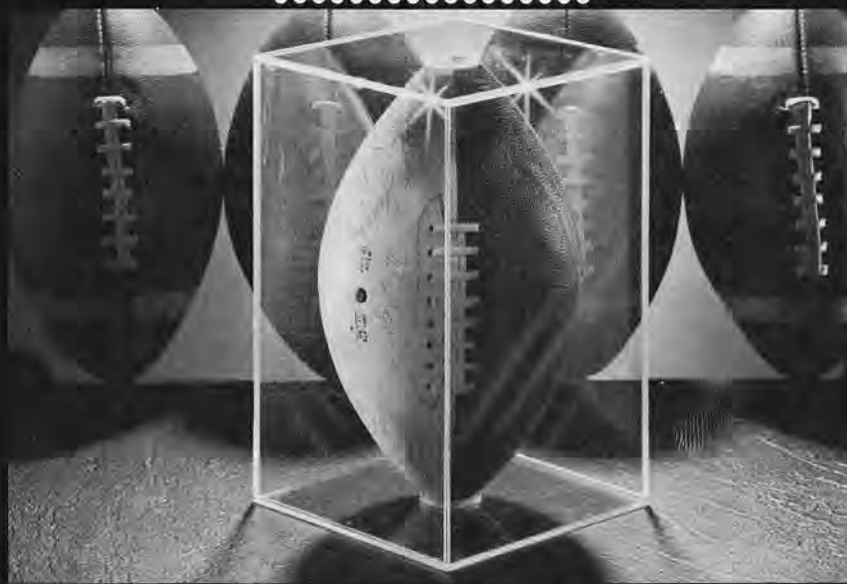
There was a measure of satisfac-

tion in that. Oklahoma had been the only Big Eight school that didn't attempt to recruit Kinney out of high school. Not that he would have picked the Sooners. His mother was impressed with Kansas State coach Vince Gibson, but Kinney said later he had made up his mind about going to Nebraska during his junior year, after a visit by a Devaney assistant coach, Tom Osborne.

The wisdom of that early decision was reinforced during his senior year in high school when Devaney himself came to McCook to pick up Kinney's signed letter of intent.

"It was like entertaining the President of the United States," Kinney said. ■

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BY STEVE SIPPLE

IN A ZONE

Nebraska senior setter Christy Johnson was a first-team All-American in 1994 and this year is playing even better.

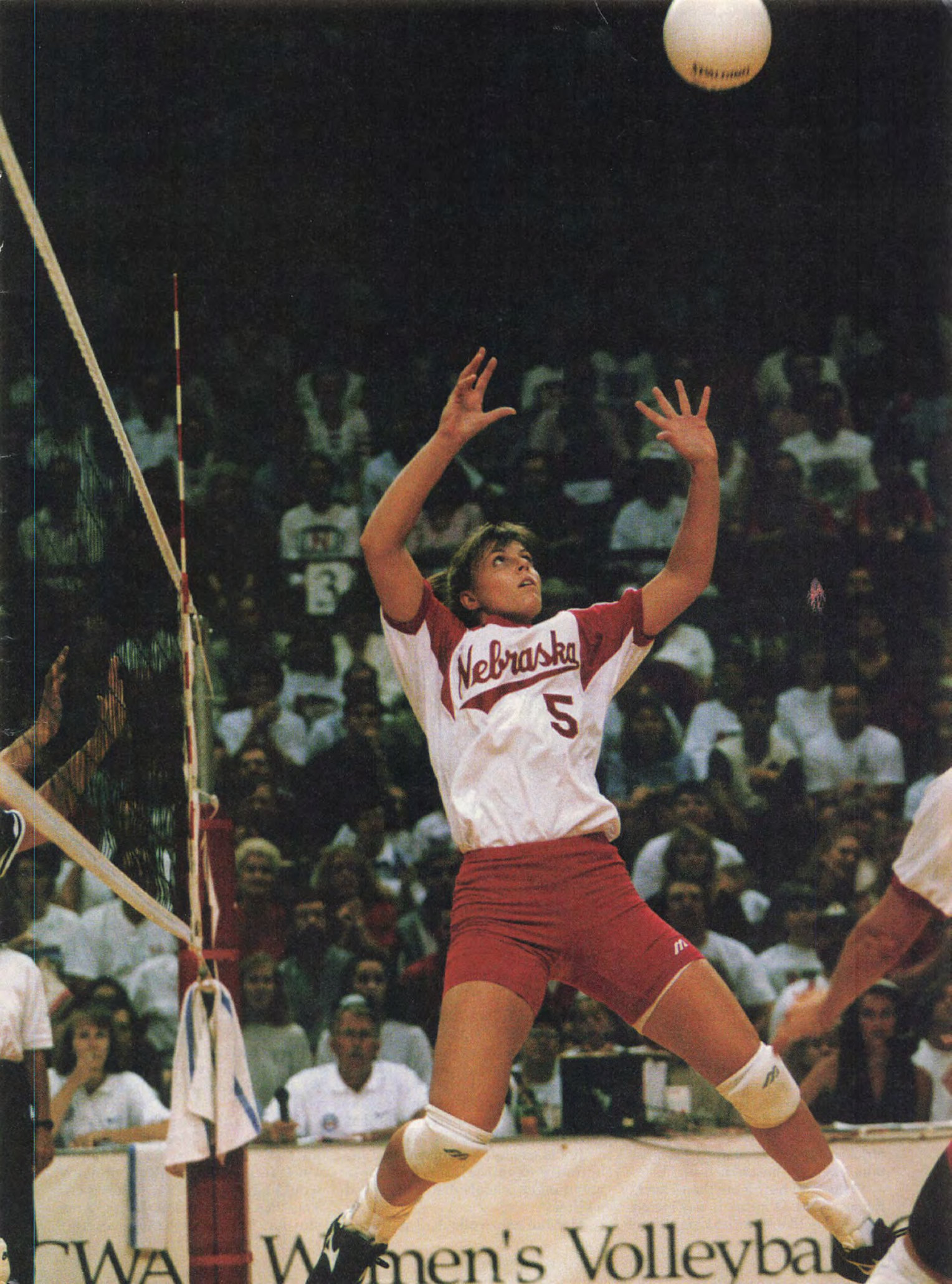
What's more, she is enjoying herself, which hasn't always been the case during her collegiate career. Nowadays, she loves her team's intensity in practice and the leadership it is receiving from its three seniors. She thinks this might be the Nebraska team that could capture the school's first NCAA volleyball title.

Christy Johnson has finally seen her career come 180 degrees from transfer thoughts to All-American dreams

On a personal level, Johnson is more satisfied with her play than she has ever been in college. She feels she has the ability to stay in rhythm for longer periods of time. In sports lingo, they call it being in "a zone." She wants to be like the golfer who can't miss a green, the basketball player who can't miss a shot, the quarterback who completes every pass.

"For me, being in a zone means the ball comes out of my hands perfectly every time," Johnson said. "It especially means I can connect with the middle hitter no matter where I am on the court. It means I can see the other side of the net, and where the blockers are, so I can get my hitters one-on-one."

"Of course, you're not going to play great every day, but I feel like I have a lot more control now of when I play great. It's not just when my body is feeling good or the stars are in the right place."



CWA Women's Volleyball

Johnson, a 5-foot-8 native of Omaha, Neb., appreciates the fact that she feels good on the court. She doesn't take her success for granted. That is because a couple years ago her stars were out of alignment. Volleyball-wise, her life was a mess. She hasn't forgotten those days, which make these good days even nicer.

"I had a horrible first couple years here, I really did," Johnson recalls. "I played quite a bit my first year, but I just hated it. I wasn't having fun. I

it."

Naturally, Johnson felt tension toward her coach, Terry Pettit. She says she felt no tension toward Stricker, who earned All-Big Eight Conference status that season.

"One day, early in the 1992 season, we had lost a match, and I asked coach after that match if I was going to set the next day, because I didn't think Nikki had played that well," Johnson said. "He said, 'No, you're not,' and I just burst into tears.

1992 would become a roller coaster of emotions. Pettit thought Johnson's style as a setter was more suited than Stricker's for the Huskers' match against Colorado in the first round of the 1992 NCAA Tournament. Pettit's move paid off when Johnson led the Huskers to a four-game victory. "I thought, 'Oh, my life is perfect, I'll stay at Nebraska,'" Johnson said.

The roller coaster ride became rough again when Pettit named Stricker as the starter for Nebraska's



Christy Johnson (left) was unhappy as she sat the bench watching senior setter Nikki Stricker (right) start in 1992. But redemption came last year as Johnson was able to lead the Huskers to a Big Eight title and a 31-1 record.

was always scared to death I was going to screw up in a game."

In 1992, Johnson entered her sophomore season determined to beat out starting setter Nikki Stricker. Johnson said she worked out two hours a day during the summer, hoping to unseat Stricker. Stricker, however, retained her position, leaving Johnson distraught.

"You can't hurt more than I hurt," Johnson said. "I mean, it was incredible. I was like, 'I'm leaving, forget

"I talked to him for a long time, and I told him, 'I don't understand — you're blind, you don't see what I see.' And he said, 'You just have to trust me.' I think he understood what I was going through. I'm certainly not the first person who has gone through something like that."

In the meantime, Johnson said she actually began talking to people about other schools that might need a setter.

Her life as a volleyball player in

second-round NCAA match, a three-game loss to Illinois.

"And then coach asked me to red-shirt that same weekend," Johnson recalls. "I was like, 'Oh my God, you're crazy.'"

By redshirting in 1993, Johnson would have the opportunity to run the show from the setter position in 1994 and 1995. Finally, Johnson would have a team to call her own. This was what she longed for. And she has taken advantage of the

opportunity.

Last season, Johnson started every match and hardly ever left the court while guiding Nebraska to a 31-1 record. The Huskers came one match from earning an NCAA Final Four berth, losing to Penn State in the championship match of the Midwest Regional in Lincoln.

Johnson established a Big Eight single-season record by averaging 14.18 assists per game.

This season, Johnson was averaging 15.14 assists through four matches and performing like the All-American she was in 1994.

Pettit often refers to areas at which his team can improve as "issues." For instance, he will say, "We weren't aggressive tonight, and that's an issue we'll have to look at."

In 1995, there are no issues to be resolved at Nebraska's setter position as long as Johnson is there.

"Christy is not an issue at all," Pettit said. "She's really playing at a high level and providing a lot of leadership and making good choices."

Perhaps most importantly, Johnson is enjoying volleyball. Nebraska's powerful group of hitters — led by two-time All-American middle blocker Allison Weston — makes Johnson's difficult job easier. And on those rare days when Johnson wonders how she is going to make it through another practice, she can always look to her fellow seniors — Weston and outside hitter Billie Winsett — for inspiration.

"I don't think there's another team in the country that has three seniors who are so committed and want to win so badly," Johnson said. "There hasn't been a day in practice where we came into practice and took it easy or zoned out. We are working so hard every day and trying to get everybody into it."

"Some days I come into practice and I'm exhausted, and I think, 'How am I going to do it today?' Then Billie or Alli will get after you, and I'll think, 'OK, I can do it.'"

Johnson said Nebraska has picked up the intensity in practice this season, with the three seniors leading the way.

"We're yelling all the time," Johnson said. "The tension is thick but it makes you play a lot better. If you can handle that kind of pressure, you can handle playing in the NCAA Final Four."

Johnson hasn't played on any of Nebraska's three Final Four teams. However, she thinks this year's

Husker squad can do more than just make the Final Four.

"I really feel like it's my turn to win the national championship," Johnson said. "And I think coach really feels like Nebraska is due. He's worked so hard to build such a great program."

"This is the best chance we've ever had, and I really believe that if we keep improving during the season, I don't think anyone can play with us."

If Johnson doesn't win the national title as a player, she would like to help guide the Huskers to glory as a

coach. She aspires to be a head coach at the Division I level, and she can think of no better place to start her coaching career than at Nebraska as an assistant to Pettit.

"I've worked with some of the top coaches in the country, and I have not met a coach as good as him," Johnson said. "He is by far the best."

"I just have so much respect for him and what he's done, and I think it's a two-way street. I think he would take me under his wing and teach me how to become a great volleyball coach." ■

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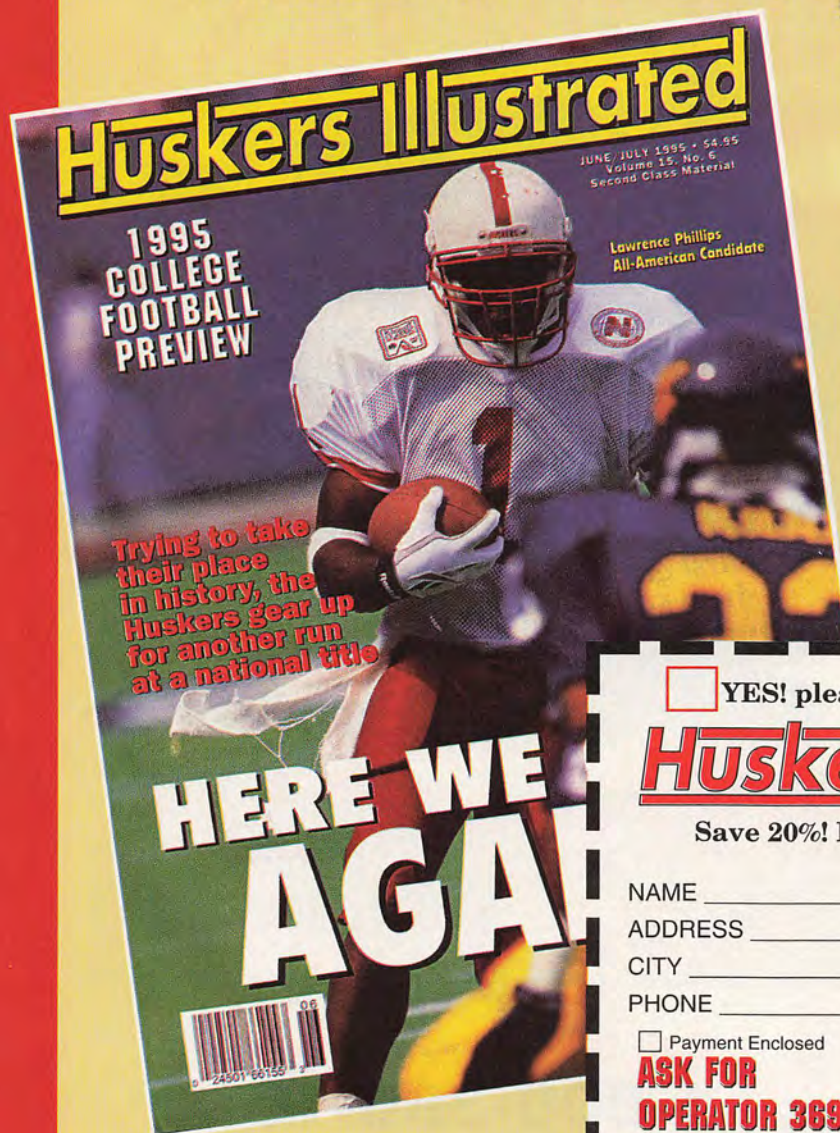
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volleyball schedule/record: 5-1

DATE	EVENT/OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
A25-26	State Farm-NACWAA Volleyball Classic#	
A25	vs. Penn State	W, 3-0
A26	vs. Stanford	L, 1-3
	Field: Nebraska, Stanford, Penn State, Cal State-Northridge	
S1-2	Pacific Invitational\$	
S1	vs. Santa Clara	W, 3-0
S2	vs. Pacific	W, 3-0
	Field: Nebraska, Santa Clara, Pacific, California	
S8-9	FirstTier Challenge#	
S8	vs. Purdue	W, 3-0
S9	vs. Wisconsin	W, 3-0
	Field: Nebraska, Kansas State, Wisconsin, Purdue	
S15-16	Wyoming Invitational%	
S15	vs. Gonzaga	3 p.m.
S16	vs. Georgia	Noon
S16	vs. Wyoming	7:30 p.m.
	Field: Nebraska, Gonzaga, Georgia, Wyoming	
S22-23	Arby's Classic#	
S22	vs. Baylor	7:30 p.m.
S23	vs. George Washington	7:30 p.m.
	Field: Nebraska, Baylor, George Washington, Kansas	
S27	@ Colorado	7:30 p.m.
S30	Oklahoma	7:30 p.m.
O4	Kansas	7:30 p.m.
O7	@ Iowa State	7:30 p.m.
O11	@ Kansas State	7:30 p.m.
O14	@ Missouri	7:30 p.m.
O21	Colorado	7:30 p.m.
O25	@ Kansas	8:00 p.m.
O28	Iowa State	7:30 p.m.
N1	Kansas State	7:30 p.m.
N4	@ Texas	7:00 p.m.
N7	Notre Dame	7:30 p.m.
N10	@ Oklahoma	7:30 p.m.
N12	Florida	2:00 p.m.
N15	Missouri	7:30 p.m.
N24-25	Big Eight Tournament^	TBA
N24	Semifinals	
N25	Finals	
N29-D16	NCAA Tournament*	
N29	NCAA First Round*	TBA
D2	NCAA Second Round*	TBA
D7-9	NCAA Regionals*	TBA
D14-16	NCAA Finals*	TBA

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BELIEVE it or NOT

In filling out a personal questionnaire used to supply the players' bios for the 1995 volleyball media guide, true freshman Jaime Krondak had a unique answer for the question, "An interesting fact most people don't know about me is. . ." She had been held hostage.

As a child, Krondak walked to a grocery store in Lincoln, where a man wearing a ski mask was holding the customers hostage. The 6-foot-0 outside hitter was then forced to join the other patrons on the floor. The situation was resolved without incident. But it provided Krondak with a good story. — **KEVIN BEST**

Defending national champion Stanford — which beat second-ranked Nebraska in a No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown Aug. 26 in Lincoln, Neb. — was upset by Texas, 3-2 Sept. 6 in Austin, Texas. The loss dropped the Cardinal to No. 5, but more importantly, Nebraska moved into the No. 1 position according to USA Today/AVCA.

NU head coach Terry Pettit said good teams — like Stanford — are more susceptible early in the season.

"Early in the season it's not hard to lose because of ball handling," Pettit said. "We don't really start playing our best volleyball until October."

Nebraska's loss to Stanford was its first regular-season defeat since a 3-0 loss at Texas in 1993.

Last year, Nebraska was the nation's top-ranked team for the last three weeks of the season. This

is only the third season, Nebraska has held the No. 1 ranking (1990, 1994, 1995). ■

NEBRASKA CLIMBS to NO. 1



GRAHAM



GILMAN



ELLIS



VELAND

FIVE LEADERS

*Tie in defensive voting leads to breakaway
from tradition and selection
of five captains*

Aaron Graham is trying to be on his best behavior this season, to set a good example for the younger players on the Nebraska football team.

"Sometimes, I get down on myself and let my mouth slip or I throw somebody on the ground when I shouldn't have. The freshmen and sophomores look up to the seniors. We can't be doing things like that," Graham said.

Graham, Mark Gilman, Tony Veland, Christian Peter and Phil Ellis, in particular, must avoid losing their composure or acting untoward. They were chosen as team captains for 1995.

It is the first time Nebraska has ever had five captains. In recent seasons, the Cornhuskers have had three or four captains. The last seven seasons, they have had four. In all but one of those seven seasons, the four were divided equally among players on offense and defense. In 1993, Nebraska had three defensive captains and one offensive captain, Gerald Armstrong. The defensive captains were Kevin Ramaekers, Trev Alberts and John Reece.

Nebraska's first team in 1890 had

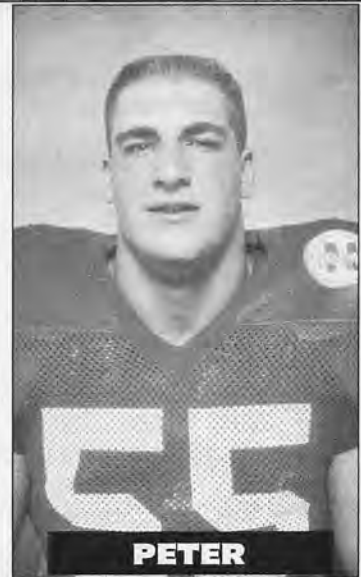
a captain, Ebenezer Mockett, and it has had at least one captain for the majority of teams since then. The first time the Cornhuskers had two captains was 1928, when Edward Howell and Elmer Holm shared the honor. From 1930 to 1949, Nebraska's team captains were appointed on a game-by-game basis.

The Cornhuskers had season-long captains off and on during the 1950s. During Bob Devaney's 11 seasons as head coach, Nebraska had only two captains, one on offense and one on defense after two-platoon football returned in 1964.

Frank Solich, Nebraska's assistant head coach and running backs coach, was among Devaney's captains in 1965. Turner Gill, the Cornhusker quarterbacks coach, was among four NU captains in 1983.

The Cornhuskers continued to have two captains under Tom Osborne until 1983, when Gill was joined by defensive tackle Mike Keeler, middle guard Mike Tranmer and offensive guard Dean Steinkuhler as captains.

Tranmer was among several walkons who have been chosen by their teammates to serve as captains.



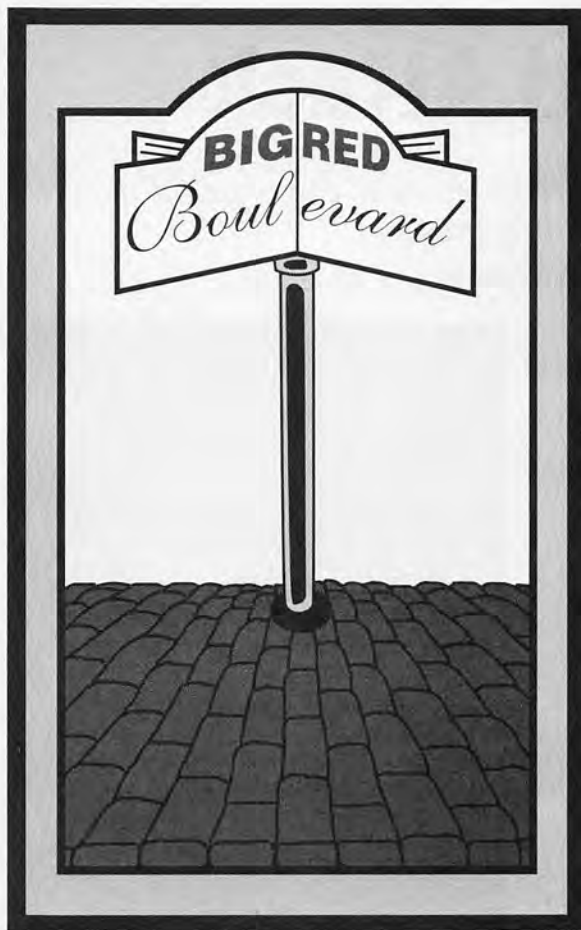
PETER

Others have included Jimmy Williams, Doug Welniak, Mark Blazek, David Edeal, Jim Scott and Gerald Armstrong. Welniak, a linebacker, was elected primarily for his exceptional special teams play.

The election procedure now involves having each offensive player vote for two offensive players and each defensive player vote for two defensive players. All seniors are eligible to be elected as captains. This year, the two offensive captains were clear-cut. There was a tie for second in the voting for defensive captains. Hence, the five.

"We think they'll be good representatives, the kind of people you can count on. They've proved themselves under fire," Osborne said.

Veland is a defensive back from Benson High School in Omaha. Ellis is a middle linebacker from Grand Island. Gilman is a tight end from Kalispell, Mont. And Peter is a defensive tackle from Locust, N.J. ■



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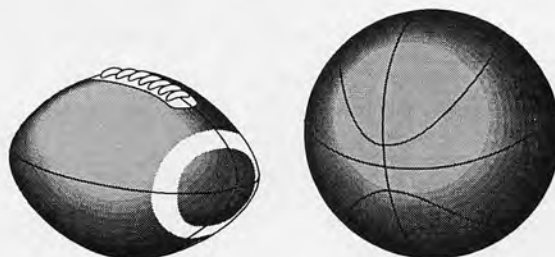
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Balanced Attack

Huskers pursue nation's top wide receivers to complement their potent running game

By JAMES HALE

The passing game is a vital element of Nebraska's offensive machine, which constantly faces defenses geared toward shutting down the run. Opposing defenses are so concerned about the Huskers' powerful rushing attack that they stack the line with a variety of eight-man fronts. This has helped the Huskers open up their passing game.

The Huskers, in turn, have committed to throwing the ball. They haven't become pass-happy by any means, but they have incorporated the aerial attack more than at any other time during the Tom Osborne era.

Receivers from across the country have taken notice, and there are a couple close to home who may wind up in Lincoln before the recruiting process is over.

Preseason All-American **Brian Wofford** (6-foot, 150, 4.4) of Spartanburg, S.C., is one of the top 15 receivers in the country. Wofford is a big-play specialist who caught 39 passes for 772 yards and seven touchdowns last season on a run-ori-

ented team. While Spartanburg has two outstanding tailbacks, Wofford is the big weapon.

"Brian is the type of kid who wants to be in a tight situation, especially late in the game with everything on the line," Spartanburg coach Doc Davis said. "He runs good disciplined routes with great 4.36 speed (in the 40-yard dash) the last time we timed him."

"Our expectations of him are great, but we are trying not to look too far ahead. We want him to enjoy his senior year and not think about college, but we realize he's one incredible talent."

Even though he makes big plays, Wofford enjoys all aspects of the game. "I am not selfish at all, I want to be and think that I am a total team player," he said. "I don't mind blocking downfield and I understand the importance of running my defender away from the play. I just want to help us win any way that I can."

Wofford's indicated that Notre Dame, Nebraska, Clemson, Pittsburgh, South Carolina and Tennessee are among the top con-



The Huskers are interested in Papillion-LaVista's John Gibson, a versatile player who may be best-suited for wide receiver.

tenders for his services.

"I don't want to rule anybody out right now because choosing a college is so important for me. I need to see which team, which university is best for me," Wofford said.

"Nebraska has a great program, a winning program and that's why they are a school that I am looking at," he said.

The Huskers also have a shot at another top-15 receiver, **Rodney Seward** (6-0, 160, 4.4) of Fontana, Calif. Seward, who transferred from Rialto Eisenhower, turned 20 catches at Ike into 10 touchdowns. He also plays cornerback. He is considering leaving the state, but said the Huskers must show him that he'll have the chance to catch more than 20 passes a year.

"I have been on a team that runs and runs and runs the football it seems all my life," Seward said. "I have thought about Nebraska and I know they are throwing the ball more. They have a great program and I certainly want to consider them."

TOP-FLIGHT RECEIVERS

As Nebraska opens up its passing game and continues to be known as a national power, several receivers around the country have shown interest in the Huskers. Here are a few of them:

Player	Ht.	Wt.	40	Schools Under Consideration
Brian Wofford	6-0	150	4.4ND, NU, CLEM, PIT, S.CAR
Rodney Seward	6-0	160	4.4	...USC, ARZ, UCLA, CAL, WSH
Jo Jo Jones	5-10	160	4.4	...FRES, CAL, UNLV, COL, NU
Greg Graves	6-5	210	4.7GA TECH, MCH, SYR, NU
Mike Woods	6-0	170	4.5KSU, NU, TEX, BAY, OU
Steve Hillman	5-10	160	4.4	...NU, AUB, FLA, FSU, OU, TEX
John Gibson	6-1	175	4.5NU, PIT, IA, WSH, ND
Brock Beran	6-0	170	4.6	...NU, COL, KAN, KSU, A&M
Eric McCready	6-4	185	4.5UCLA, ND, OU, NW, NU
David Allen	5-11	180	4.5MO, NU, KSU, A&M, OU
Nii Hammond	5-11	175	4.5AZ, ILL, MICH ST, NU
Damien Dotson	5-9	165	4.4	...LSU, FLA, NU, PIT, ARK, A&M
Jermale Kelly	6-2	185	4.4NU, ND, GA, S.CAR, FSU
Kenneth Davis	6-0	185	4.5MCH, MIA, NU, AZ, OU

USC, Arizona and UCLA are the West Coast leaders, with California and Washington also in the picture. Seward also is considering Illinois and Oklahoma State.

Jo Jo Jones (5-10, 160, 4.4) of Hanford, Calif., is a three-year starter who caught 22 passes for 454 yards and eight TDs last season. Jones would like to play for a pass-oriented team, but wants to look at the Huskers because the team has so much talent. Fresno State, California, UNLV and Colorado are also in the recruiting chase.

Greg Graves (6-5, 210, 4.7) of Washington, D.C., Archbishop Carroll is not fast, but he runs routes well and has good hands. As a junior, Graves nabbed 45 passes for 991 yards and seven touchdowns. He said he's considering Nebraska.

"I think Nebraska is such a good program and a great school with an excellent graduation rate that I have to consider them," Graves said. "I need to think really hard if I want to go that far away from home." Georgia Tech, Michigan, Syracuse and Ohio State are also in the hunt for Graves.

Mike Woods (6-0, 170, 4.5) of Del City, Okla., is one of the most versatile athletes in the country. He has played wide receiver, quarterback, free safety and tailback. Woods is leaning toward Kansas State and Nebraska. "They win, which is the most impressive thing about Nebraska," Woods said. Texas, Baylor, OU and Oklahoma State are also in the chase.

In Florida, **Steve Hillman** (5-10, 160, 4.4) of Hillsboro is being converted to wide receiver. He started the past two seasons at quarterback, but draws attention as a wideout. Nebraska is his early favorite, with Auburn, Florida, Florida State, OU and Texas in the shadows.

Closer to home, **John Gibson** (6-0, 175, 4.55) of Papillion-LaVista can play several positions. He excelled at defensive back, but may be best at wide receiver. Nebraska's currently the front-runner for Gibson, although Pitt, Iowa, Washington, Notre Dame, Colorado State and Wyoming are also in the hunt.

Brock Beran (6-0, 170, 4.6) of Omaha Millard South is another talented in-state receiver.

The national list of talented receivers is certain to grow as the season progresses. But keep an eye on these receivers who may one day be catching passes in Nebraska's more balanced attack. ■

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Unfazed and 3-0

Trying week does nothing to damage Nebraska's solidarity

By MIKE BABCOCK

It was payback time in Nebraska's home opener. Payback time in a positive sense.

"We wanted to win this one for coach (Tom) Osborne," center Aaron Graham said after the Cornhuskers overwhelmed Arizona State 77-

28.

"We wanted to show how much he means to us. We know he's behind us. We wanted to show we're behind him."

Such a show of solidarity was important after one of the most trying weeks in Osborne's 23 seasons as head coach. On Tuesday, Lawrence Phillips appeared in Lancaster County Court to enter a plea of not guilty on three misdemeanor charges, following his alleged assault of an ex-girlfriend.

The alleged incident occurred early Sunday morning, just hours after the team returned to Lincoln following a 50-10 victory at Michigan State. The previous morning, Damon Benning also was arrested for an alleged assault. Benning didn't make the trip to East Lansing, Mich., because of an injury.

Benning would have played against Arizona State had it not been for the hamstring injury. But Phillips, who had been a serious candidate to win the Heisman Trophy based on his play in the first two games, was suspended indefinitely by Osborne.

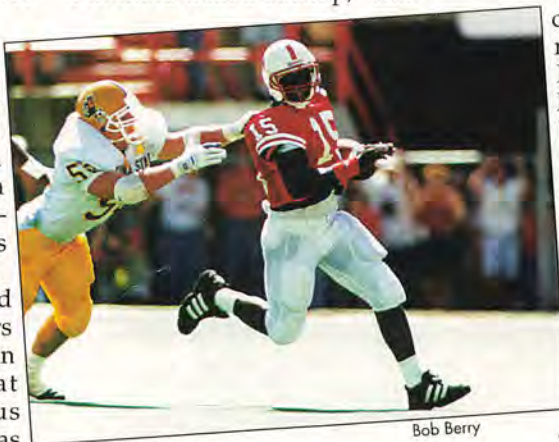
Phillips' situation was significantly different from that of Benning, according to Osborne, which explained the difference in sanctions. Phillips might not play again for Nebraska, though Osborne left the door slightly ajar for the junior from West Covina, Calif. "Never say never," Osborne said, explaining that if Phillips were to accomplish certain things, he might be allowed to return to the team before season's end.

With Phillips suspended and Benning ailing, senior Clinton Childs

became the No. 1 I-back, followed by true freshman Ahman Green and walk-on James Sims, a redshirted sophomore.

Childs, who began the fall dividing time between fullback and I-back, responded in his first collegiate start by rushing for 143 yards and two touchdowns before suffering a strained right knee which leaves his status for the Pacific game in doubt.

"I wanted to show to myself that I'm more than a backup," said



Tommie Frazier and Nebraska put the week's events and the Sun Devils behind them, improving to 3-0 for the season.

Childs, who had been the No. 4 fullback on the depth chart two weeks before.

Childs had never played fullback. And he had never intended to play fullback when he was recruited from Omaha North High School.

Before the game, Frank Solich, Nebraska's assistant head coach and running backs coach, told me, "I know you're a heck of a player." He showed he had a lot of confidence in me.

Phillips also encouraged him during the week, Childs said. "He's missed a lot. He's one of my friends. I talked to him every day. He lifted me up a lot. He told me: 'Just keep your head up. You know what you can do.'"

Childs said Phillips gave him a ride to the theater where the team watched its pregame movie on Friday night, but "I'm not sure if he came to the game today or not."

Osborne said he had kept in close contact with Phillips throughout the week but they hadn't talked on Saturday and that was a concern.

"I thought this would be a tough day for Lawrence," said Osborne. "I hope he's OK."

Osborne, who also expressed concern for the victim and her family, reiterated his support not only of Phillips but also of Benning and Riley Washington, who was bound over to district court on two felony charges following an August shooting incident.

Osborne indicated there was significant doubt about the guilt of Washington and Benning. Washington has been practicing with the team and could be allowed to play in games until his situation is resolved in court.

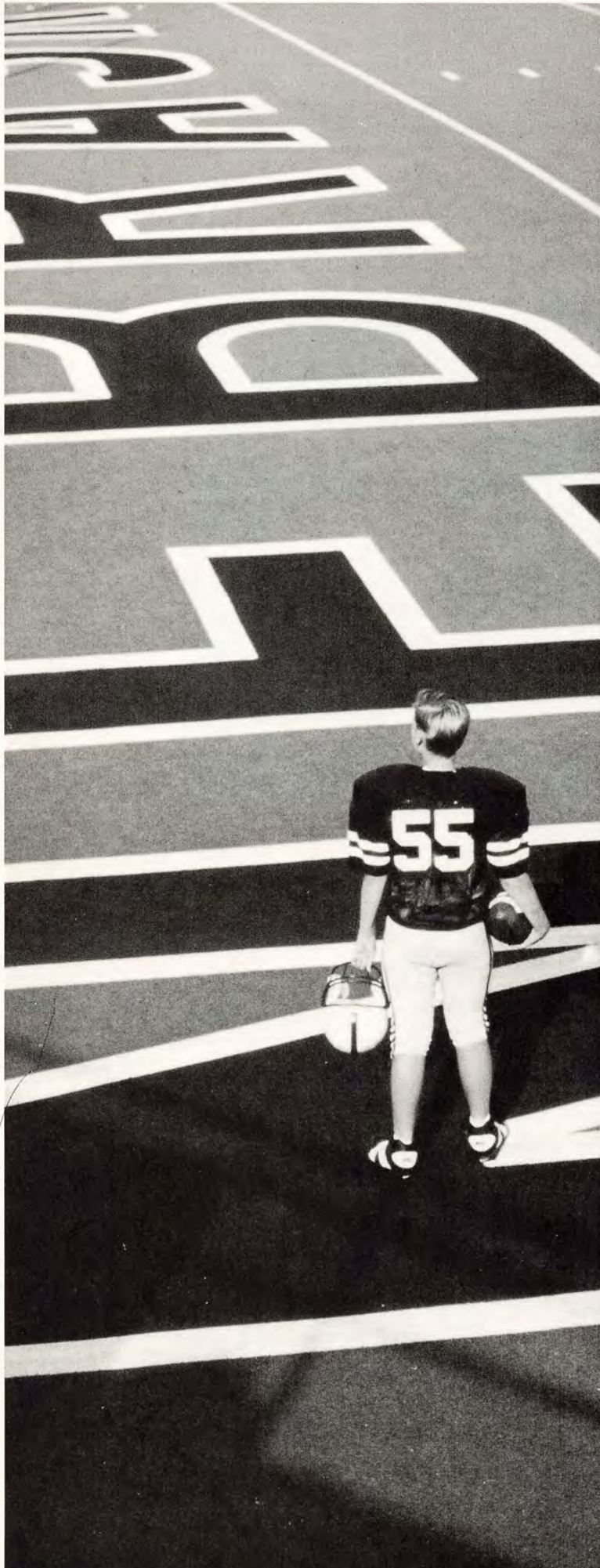
"You hate to see players take some of the stuff they have to take," Osborne said. "We've done what we thought was right by each player. We feel, for the most part, the guys we've hung with have done very well under that system. I do care about them."

Lincoln was besieged with print and broadcast reporters from all over the country beginning on Monday. And Osborne expected the scrutiny to continue. "I imagine this will be another rough week," he said.

Graham and the rest of the players wanted Osborne to know that they were behind him.

"We put everything that happened at the beginning of the week behind us," said quarterback Tommie Frazier. "We're going to move on even though we lost a good player."

"A lot of the negative publicity is uncalled for," Sims said. "We have a lot of good people here." ■



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